

# LETTERS FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>

A collection of field reports submitted to and published by Fox Valley Newspapers  
during the years 1861 thru 1865  
Regarding The Thirty Sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry



A search of period newspapers was performed at most of the local Fox Valley libraries and historical centers from as far south as Morris, Grundy County, Illinois to as far north as Woodstock, McHenry County, Illinois.

Articles are arranged chronologically by the dates they appeared in the paper. However, in some cases the date of the writing will take precedence where it more clearly conveys the thought.

The date of issue, preceded by an abbreviation of the newspaper name, in italics, is posted before each entry. Examples are;

AB, 4-18-1861	Aurora Beacon
KCR, 6-9-1864	KendallCounty Record
SDD, 9-16-1863	Second District Democrat
EG, 4-18-1861	Elgin Gazette
GCH, 3-19-1862	Grundy County Herald
WS, 4-26-1861	Woodstock Sentinel

The community newspapers included herein represent all that could be found within the Fox Valley Area. Some towns are not represented well, only because newspapers have not survived to my knowledge. Most unfortunate is that Geneva, St. Charles and Wayne were not able to be added to the collection. Discovery of such newspapers would be greatly appreciated by the compiler.

Certainly the Fox Valley area of northern Illinois, and for that matter, the “Fox Valley Boys” of the 36<sup>th</sup>, were not unlike many other Union Communities, before, during and after the conflict. What is disclosed here is by no means rare. Rather, it is an intimate insight into local events and personalities, emotions and rivalries, pride and jealousies that were part of the daily lives of soldiers and citizens, reporters and editors, who were touched by the 36<sup>th</sup>.

Compiled By  
Paul Trautt  
November, 2008

1861

### **EVENTS PRIOR TO MUSTERING THE 36<sup>th</sup>**

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1861, President Lincoln issued his proclamation.

Whereas, the laws of the United States have been and are opposed in several States by combinations too powerful to be suppressed in the ordinary way, I therefore call for the militia of the several States of the Union, to aggregate number of 75,000 to suppress said combination and execute the laws.

On the same day, Richard Yates, Governor of Illinois responded with his own proclamation.

I, Richard Yates, Governor of the State of Illinois, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution, hereby convene the Legislature of said State, and the members of the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly are hereby required to be and appear in their respective places, at the Capitol, in the city of Springfield, on Tuesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, A. D. 1861, for the purpose of enacting such laws and adopting such measures as may be deemed necessary upon the following subjects, to-wit: The more perfect organization and equipment of the militia of the State, and placing the same upon the best footing; and to render efficient assistance to the General Government in *preserving the Union, enforcing the laws, and protecting the property and rights of the people*. Also, to raise such money and the other means as may be required to carry out the foregoing objects, and also to provide for the expenses of such session.

Simultaneously, T. S. Mather, Adjutant General of the Illinois State Militia, issued General Order No. 1 from Springfield.

In view of the present dangers menacing the Government, and the probability of an immediate call being made on the several States of the Union for troops to aid in enforcing the laws and protecting the capital and public property of this Union, the commandants of the several divisions, brigades, regiments and independent companies will take immediate steps towards perfecting the drills and discipline of their several commands, and hold themselves in readiness for actual service.

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Richard Yates, in his role of Commander-in-Chief of Illinois, issued General Order No. 2 from Springfield.

The Secretary of War, under and by direction of the President of the United States, having called upon the Executive of this State for the immediate organization of six regiments of volunteer militia to aid in the enforcement of the laws of the

United States, and to protect the public property; therefore, I, Richard Yates, Governor of the State of Illinois, and Commander-in-Chief of the militia, thereof, do call upon the commandants of the divisions, brigades, regiments and independent companies to aid in raising and organizing the same immediately, and if there be no such officers, then the sheriff of each county.

By the instruction of the War Department, each company will consist of one Captain, one First Lieutenant, one Second Lieutenant, four Sergeants, four Corporals, two Musicians, and eighty men.

Each regiment will be composed of one Colonel, one Lieutenant Colonel, one Major, one Adjutant, (a Lieutenant of one of the companies, but not in addition) one Sergeant Major, one Quartermaster Sergeant, , two principal Musicians, and ten companies.

Each Company will elect its own officers, and when the several companies shall meet at a place of rendezvous, they will be formed into regiments, and will elect their own regimental officers. As fast as the companies are formed the commanding officer will make a return to the office of the Adjutant General, stating the name of the officers and number of the men in each company. No persons under the rank of commissioned officer will be received who is apparently over the age of forty five, or under the age of eighteen years.

Springfield is appointed the place of rendezvous, to which place each company or regiment will repair, at the earliest practicable period – where tents, and such other conveniences as can be procured, will be furnished.

Companies will be received in the order of which their services are offered.

The Seventh Infantry was formed and enrolled at Springfield on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1861 for three month's service. Their date of muster was April 25<sup>th</sup>. Many of the men who mustered out on July 25<sup>th</sup> would join the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteer Infantry upon their return to the Fox Valley. Some of the names of note are;

Major Nicholas Greusel  
Captain Edward S. Joslyn, Company A  
First Lieutenant Silas Miller, Company C  
Sergeant Benj. F. Campbell, Company C.

Company A appeared to be populated by Elgin Men, Company C., Aurora.

It should also be noted that quite a few men stayed on with the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry

Regiment when it was reorganized for three years service on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 1861. For one, Nicholas Greusel, Lieutenant Colonel, stayed with the 7<sup>th</sup> until appointed Colonel of the 36<sup>th</sup> in September.

*AB, 4-18-1861*

### ! ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS !

Those of our fellow citizens who, in response to the call of the President for volunteers desire to enroll themselves for the defense of their country, will please leave their names at this office until such times as definite and authoritative arrangements are made for furthering the enlistment. It is expected that the call for troops will be immediately filled. Aurora should contribute her share of men and money towards the patriotic defense of our country, and *she will*. A competent officer will be found to drill all who may volunteer, so that when officers are commissioned to take command, there will be but little delay in the preparations for a departure for the scene of action.

Capt. E. S. Joslyn, of Elgin, we are informed, holds his company of Continentals in readiness, and like a brave patriotic man, is ready to march with them at once. St. Charles, Geneva, and Batavia, each will without doubt raise a company, or join together in raising one or two companies at least.

A number of our wealthiest citizens have signified their willingness to contribute large and liberal sums of money for the support of the families of those who are disposed to volunteer, and who have not the immediate means to provide for their support. The women and children will be cared for, and if required to the equal distribution of all the wealth of the neighborhood or State. Business, if necessary, must come to a stand still, and every man who is able to shoulder a musket must hold himself in readiness to fight for our homes and the preservation of the government. Those who cannot go to the scenes of conflict must contribute of their means, their sweat and their toil, for the support and maintenance of the families of those, who, from feelings of duty and patriotism contribute their time, and if necessary, their lives for the honor of our flag and the glory of our country.

Since writing the above, we have received the following from that true and patriotic man, Hon. Stephen A. Hurlburt, of Belvidere in this State. Until organized by the election of proper officers it will be best for all who enlist to report to Mr. Hurlburt the number, names and post office address of all who are ready to march.

*EG, 4-18-1861*

TURN OUT! TURN OUT!

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THE TRAITORS VICTORIOUS!

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Shall Kane County be found wanting?

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A meeting of the Washington Continentals will be held at Davidson's Hall, Elgin, Kane Co., Ills., on Friday evening, April 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7 o'clock for the purpose of reorganizing and enlistment.

Let every man who loves his country, and who is willing to defend her flag, be present. Let every young man be present.

Music and eloquent speakers will be in attendance.

By order of the Captain.

*EG, 4-18-1861*

Boys of '61 Remember Those of '76

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They are gone – we stand in their places. Let us be worthy of the high position. The glorious inheritance for which they fought and bled – the alter of our common country upon which they willingly sacrificed *all* has already been desecrated by vile traitors. “And will we tamely submit? No, a thousand times *no*. We will prove by our deeds that we are not degenerate sons; that we prize the liberties so dearly purchased, and are willing if need be, to preserve and transmit this sacred boon of liberty, even at the price of life itself.

Long and bloody may be the war which has just begun, and ere long on us will the duty devolve to protect the glorious old Stars and Stripes wherever it may wave.

Let us prepare while we can, organize ourselves into a company. The hour of action may come when we think not. We appeal to you who love our country to enroll your names with those who are willing to be her defenders, in the books that will soon be opened for that purpose.

Many Boys.

AB, 4-25-1861

## AURORA VOLUNTEERS

We give below, from the muster roll, a list of the gallant men who form the Aurora Volunteers, and left this city on Monday last, to offer themselves in defense of their country. Among those enrolled will be found many of our best young men—men reared amid all the comforts kind friends, and affluence could obtain, enjoying the comforts of a dear home. Voluntarily they have relinquished all that is dear to them, and gone forth in defense of the flag, to which they feel they owe much of all they have had, and to which they must be indebted for the future.-- May God speed them, and strengthen their hearts and hands amid all the dangers and privations which shall surround them to---“to fight well the good fight.”

### OFFICERS

	Nativity	Age	
Captain W. Greusel	German	43	Married
1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant S. E. Lawyer	American	36	“
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Silas Miller	“	22	Single
1 <sup>st</sup> Sergeant R. P. Pattison	“	26	“
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sergeant Geo. White	“	24	“
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sergeant B. F. Campbell	“	23	“
4 <sup>th</sup> Sergeant G. P. Douglas	“	23	“
1 <sup>st</sup> Corporal J. Aiken	“	28	“
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Corporal positions not filled.			
4 <sup>th</sup> Corporal Geo. S. Prindle	“	26	“
Drummer H. A. Snell	“	18	“

### PRIVATES

Wm. Anderson	American	20	Single
Wm. Amendt	German	27	“

Albert W. Brown	American	24		“	
Melville Bowers	“			Married	
Samuel A. Brown	“	25		“	
Wm. Brown jr.	“		27		“
Wm. F. Blakeslee	“	20		Single	
Wm. Blakie	Scotch		19		“
J. J. Battenschlag	German	35		Married	
Alfred Billing	English		24		“
H. H. Billing	American		19	Single	
J. H. Bishop	Canada		20		“
John Bently	England	28		“	
G. A. Bamber	American		18		“
J. M. Bigger	“	23		“	
Wm. H. Cheetham	“	23		Married	
Arba Camp	“	19		Single	
Henry Cushing	“		23		“
T. G. Caulkins	“				
J. F. Churchill	“		23		“
Geo. Carman	“		27		“
H. E. Drivey	“	19		“	
Robert Drain	Canada		24		“
John D. Dolan	American		21		“
James Eddy	“	25		Married	
Jacob Eisenberger	German	22		Single	
S. B. Evans	American	25		“	
Samuel Eppersall	“	23		“	
Chas. Eppuer	Swiss		28		“
H. L. Evans	American	21		“	
Michael Flynn	Irish		28	Married	
P. M. Fitzgerald	“	25		Single	
M. D. Flowers	American	20		“	
Abner Fields	“		29	Married	
John Fox	“				
Andrew Golden	“	22		Single	
John A. Gronberg	Swiss	23		“	
Frank Goodwin	American			“	
F. A. Gates	“	25		“	
Edward Goodwin	“			“	
Jacob L. Hobber	“	20		“	
J. H. Hubbard	“				“

W. D. Hawkins	“		20	“	
G. P. Barns	English		22	“	
James W. Harris	“			“	
W. H. Hartless	American		22	“	
Frederick Hall	German		20	“	
Frederick Hass	“		36		Married
Samuel Hitchcock	American	31		Single	
G. J. Kulp	“	20		“	
John W. Kendall	“	20		“	
Frederick Knight					
Martin Lenox	Irish		29		Married
Orvis C. Lathrop	American	21		Single	
Patrick Leery	Irish		22		“
Joseph R. Loomis	“				
Geo. Meiggs	American		20		“
J. N. Murray	English		23		“
Robert Miller	American		23		“
Caleb Mayhew	Canada			28	“
Rees L. Merriman	American	31		“	
Frank Marlett	“		20		“
Geo. W. Moore	“	22		“	
Geo. G. Mostow	“	25		“	
E. McDaniels	“		22		“
A. Mayhew	“	19		“	
W. M. Moore	“		31		“
J. W. Morey	“	26		Married	
Alex McKinzie	Scotch			19	Single
H. C. Miller	American	24		“	
Thomas McAndy	“	27		“	
Frederick Nichols	German	21		“	
Elmer Nichols	American	21		“	
Frank Olmaker	German	21		“	
Wm. H. Puffer	American	26		“	
Oscar Pease	“	22		“	
Oliver Rose	“	21		“	
Julius Kleindorf	Prussian	28		“	
W. W. Roberts	American	21		“	
Edwin Reeder	“	19		“	
Lewis Rose	“	23		“	
John H. Steel	“	27		“	

R. S. Seymour	“	19	“
Fletcher J. Snow	“	23	“
Charles E. Strong	“	18	“
Wm. P. Scheffer			
Edward Sheehee	Irish	21	“
Harlon A. Slute			
Wm. Shies	German	25	“
Henry Tittsworth	American	24	“
Peter Schiho	German	25	“
Martin J. Tarble	American		Married
Geo. M. Vail	“	26	“
James M. Walker	“		Single
H. C. Williams	“	22	“
Leroy Waler	“	24	Married
Chas. R White	“	28	Single
Walter Welsh	“	24	“
William Warren	German	31	“
Wm. F. Wells	American	24	“
A. B. McKnight	“	23	“
Oscar Gettman	“	21	“
James A. Swain	“	21	“
Wm. Roser	English	27	“

Making the whole number of the first company of the Aurora Volunteers One Hundred and Fourteen men, all told; a company of which any town may be proud – good glorious fellows.

#### ARTILLERY

Besides these, the Artillery company, consisting of fourteen men, with the canon which has long been housed in this city, went upon the same train. Their muster roll is as follows:

Thomas S. Bates	American	25	Single
O. M. Bates	“	21	“
Fred. Enexleben	German	32	“
J. P. Gillespie	Scotch		28 “
H. M. Morgan	American	22	“
M. E. McGrath	Ireland		25 “
Wm. L. Messenger	American	22	Married
N. M. Sattersfield	“	18	Single
Cornelius Snyder	“	25	“

Abi al Tarble	“	45	Married
Wm. Thompson	“	23	Single
Noyes B. Wood	“	42	Married
John White	“	44	Single
Charles Wadsmith	“	24	“

Making a total of One Hundred and Twenty Eight soldiers from Aurora now in the service.

*AB, 4-25-1861*

### AURORA INVINCIBLES

Irish adopted citizens have always been among the foremost who have aided Americans to fight the battles of their flag. Able, heartier, more enthusiastic and determined soldiers are not to be found, than the true Irishman. Below we give the names of such of this class of our citizens as we have united in a company to be called the “Aurora Invincibles,” and hold themselves in immediate readiness to attend the orders of the Governor, or General Officer in command of this section.

Thomas Newlan	Wm H Brennan
Cornelius O Neal	Charles Heaney
Andrew Dugdale	P H McWilliams
John McMannus	R McCabe
Peter Taylor	John Heaton
Edward Shayhey	James McGuire
John Brady	Geo. Kinney
Patrick Riley	John Cassady
Charles Barry	Frederick Sheriff
Malachi Bergen	Thomas Bacon
David Curran	Wm. Halpin
Patrick Brady	

The first meeting of the Irish, to take into consideration the formation of a military company, was held at Hibernian hall, on Main St., last Monday evening. Their room were crowded. Hon. B. F. Fridley, Presided, Thomas Newlan, Secretary. Stirring speeches were made by Messrs. Fridley, Newlan, John McInhill, Richard McCabe, Andrew Dugdale and P. McWilliams.

On Tuesday evening the Irish went up to Batavia to attend a meeting, and

enlist some of their countrymen from that town. The meeting was organized with O. Wilson, President, and E. D Swain, Secretary. Addresses were made by Thomas Newlan, Geo. Pierce, R. F. McCabe, John McInhill, Daniel Slayton and P. McWilliams. Recruits were added, but the roll left there, so that to the above list we are unable to append any whose names were given since Tuesday noon.

Rev. Mr. Powers, Pastor of the Catholic church, enters with his whole soul into the support of the government, and lends his, by no means small, influence to the encouragement of his countrymen, and especially the members of his church, in enlistment. We understand he offers to accompany them in the campaign as chaplain. The gentleman's temper may be judged from the tone of the following note he sent to his parishioners in Batavia, on Sunday last.

#### TO THE PEOPLE OF BATAVIA

My Countrymen – Your country calls for your assistance. The flag of the Union is threatened. The rattlesnake flag is hoisted in the south – with God's help *that* shall be pulled down. -- Your countrymen are forming a company here in Aurora. They want you to join them to fight for the flag of freedom. Prepare yourselves – no time is to be lost.

Walter H. Powers  
Pastor of Aurora.

AB, 4-25-1861

#### AURORA RIFLES

Below we give the official list of the "Aurora Rifles," as furnished us from the muster roll, by E. W Burndage. The company is not yet accepted by Governor Yates, though there is no doubt but that their services will be speedily called for. They are improving the intervening time in drill, under the direction of Capt. DeWitt of the Chicago Zouaves.

Married men are marked with a star. Americans A; Irish I; Germans G; English E:

* B. F. Parks Captain American age		34
* Geo. H. Gardiner, 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieut. A		37
* Ed. Went, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut.,	A	31
Orville B. Merrill, Brevet,	A	25

Aucutt G.	A	21	Johnson Henry	A	20
Armstrong L.	I	20	Lynch Michael	I	22
Allason H K	A	27	Leartz Chas G	21	
Abbott Henry	G	35	Loverine J W	A	19
Allaron Orrin	A	21	Larabee Wm	A	28
Babcock Edwin	A	20	Loomis O W	A	31
Brundage E W	A	24	Mostow R	A	22
Beardsley A E	A	22	Miers Geo W	A	20
Baird E B	A	20	McCroskey J F	A	26
* Bissell T A	A	26	* McGuire Jas	I	26
Barnes Alfred	A	23	Milgate E C	A	24
Brown Frawn	A	23	Miller Geo W	A	19
* Brown John N	A	37	Putnam Geo B	A	22
Barker A E	A	21	Pauline J C	A	23
Brook Chas	A	31	* Pritchard E A	A	28
Benton Erwin M	A	18	* Pilan Chas	E	36
Burt Thos L	E	28	* Parker E N	A	31
Cushing F W	A	18	* Pierce J D	A	37
Cheatham J H	A	20	* Peoples Robt	I	42
Cram Lewis	G	46	Prink Fred	G	23
* Congdon L H	A	24	* Purdy E S	A	44
Cramer N S	A	25	Perrin Henry	A	24
Corthell Walter	A	21	Ridgeway Jas	E	35
* Clark M G	A	34	Robinson Geo D	A	25
* Church G S	A	31	Shedd E T	A	23
Connelly John	E	24	* Saunders Wm	A	44
Clark Geo C	E	24	Seymour W A	A	20
Clark Thos	A	19	Squires Orrin	A	19
Dugdale Peter	A	21	Shear Milton	A	23
* Doyle Geo W	A	25	Smith G W	A	30
DaLee W	A	25	Shaver C	G	23
Douny Frank	A	20	* Saterfield W E	A	22
Dorr Chas O.	A	20	Siegfreid M	G	28
Everard Joseph	A	32	Seiger E	G	28
Emerson Ed. M	A	21	Stafford S L	A	20
Egert Daniel	G	22	Scafford Chris	A	21
Fisher John	G	22	Terrill Nelson	E	25
Foster John E	A	21	Thatcher M L	A	20
Fikes Geo W	A	33	Thomas Peter	A	25
Gates R W	A	27	* Vandenberg A J	A	29

Goodale James	A	22	* Vadeto Geo W	A	27
Hattery J Q	A	26	* Whitford J	A	25
Hayes T C	A	28	* Woodard John	A	33
* Holden A. C	A	30	Williams H S	A	28
Hager Francis	G	31	* Wilder Geo	A	28
Hubbard Chas	A	22	Wells N	A	24
Hawley E M	A	29	* Wilson Henry	E	28
* Hatch I B	A	34	West A P	A	23
Johnle John A	G	34	Wells C	G	30
Johnson Robt S	A	18	* Young D W	A	35
Jolley John M	A	24	Youngs Geo E	A	20
Jay V S	A	20			

Average height 5 feet 8 inches. Largest 6 ft. 2 ½ Shortest, 5 3 ½.

*EG, 4-25-1861*

## WAR MEETINGS.

### ELGIN

At a meeting called by the Captain of the Elgin Continentals, for the purpose of filling the company by enlistment, at Davidson's Hall, April 19, 1861.

The meeting was called to order by Lieut. Davidson, and on his motion Col. B. E. Dodson was called to the chair and R. W. Padelford appointed Secretary.

The following persons were appointed Vice Presidents, to wit; Wm. G. Hubbard, Col. J. Hunter, A. J. Waldron, Geo. W. Renwick, A. Root, H. Sherman, John Hill, Wm. C. Kimball, B. F. Lawrence, J. Dyke, W. Miller, A. Raymond, T. Lynch, A. Schaller and O. Davidson.

The Chairman called upon the Rev. N. C. Clark, who opened the meeting with prayer.

The Chairman in a very appropriate and patriotic speech stated the object of the meeting.

On motion of J. S. Wilcox, Esq., a committee of three were appointed by the chair to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting, to wit; J. S.

Wilcox, G. W. Renwick and O. Davidson.

A letter from Gen. E. Wilcox was read, counseling “the young men to sustain by all their energy the dignity and honor of the nation,” which was received with three cheers for the General and the flag of our country.

After listening to soul stirring music by the brass band, Rev. A. J. Joslyn was called for and addressed the meeting, followed by John S. Wilcox, Esq., Judge Morgan, Rev. N. C. Clark, B. W. Raymond, M. B. Baldwin, G. W. Renwick and others.

Lieutenant Davidson read the following dispatches from Springfield and Naperville:

Springfield, Ill., April 18, 1861

To Capt. E. S. Joslyn: --Tender accepted. Fill company and march forthwith for Springfield. Advise us of your probable arrival.

T. S. Mather,  
Adjt. General.

Naperville, April 19, '61.

To James Davidson: -- I cannot get home to-night. Go on; I am with you for the defense of our country.

E. S. Joslyn, Captain.

The committee to draft resolutions reported the following, which were unanimously adopted: (omitted for want of room.)

A subscription was taken up on the spot, amounting to about \$200 per month.

About 75 volunteers were enrolled.

The greatest enthusiasm prevailed. All distinction of party was laid aside. One feeling pervaded every heart, and that was, “the Union must and shall be preserved.”

B. E. Dodson, Chairman.  
R. W. Padelford, Secretary.

## WOODSTOCK LIGHT GUARD

This patriotic military corps, to whom we have often alluded in the most favorable terms have filled up their ranks, and offered their services in defense of their country. It was the second company in the State to tender its services to the Governor, and the resolutions adopted by the company, months ago, long before it was thought that matters would take the serious turn they have, were published in the Sentinel. That company has gallantly struggled along, against opposition of every kind, and now their experience and excellent drill is found of incalculable benefit, in the preparation for the stern realities of war.

The company is now using the Supervisors room as an Armory, and will continue to do so until ordered into active service.

Below we publish the muster roll of the company, numbering 82 men. 93 constitutes a full company – the 11 required will be on hand by noon today.

L. D. Kelly, Captain	Thomas Noonan
D. C. Josly, 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieut.	Wm. B. Austin
J. D. Short	August Hildebrandt
G. A. Austin	F. H. Fowler
John Brown	J. K. Sanborn
Peter Brasso	Albert Webb
A. W. Cumins	Wm. Love
Bela Darrel	Martin Fritsch
John Day	L. H. S. Barrows
W. M. Friend	Frank McQuire
Mark Hathaway	Morris Dickerson
Frank Hansford	Joseph A. Bird
L. H. Jones	James A. Rider
James M'Cawley	Frank Wheeler
John Mullen	Newman Ellsworth
A. G. Murphy	Isaac C. Perkins
B. B. Reynolds	E. E. Richards
Wm. Sherman	James Weaver
Jacob Samler	Walter Anes
Wm. H. Sanford	Robert C. St Clair
Fred Smith	Charles M. Ross
Gilman Chase	A. M. Kent
Phineas H. Kerr	C. H. Fairchild
L. S. Charch	Stephen Van Camp
Andrew J. Ingersoll	John Nemire
Asa W. Smith	James Gallagher

Jeb Hewland	Wm. W. Willis
R. K. Todd	C. D. Ramsey
Fred Horn	D. M. Howland
Harvey T. H. Fry	G. T. Freeman
J. B. Wayne	Washington Newman
George W. Noble	C. N. Howland
Geo. E. Evans	Robert Wheeler
Andrew Lascells	Sylvester Rice
L. P. Shelley	Joseph Miner
Albert T. DeLong	A. F. Salisbury
Sam'l Mallory	C. L. Church
Charles Irish	Dewey Thompson
David L. Great	Ebenezer D. Calkin
Francis Sullivan	Daniel Burrows

*EG, 5-2-1861*

“WAR AT HOME!”

Mr. Editor:

I have read with mingled feelings of mirth and astonishment the *sensation* articles in that *wonderful paper*, The Kane County Advertiser of the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, which devotes nearly two columns editorial – indignant &c., to the “war at home.”

I would ask you to republish those articles in your paper, that the people of Elgin might see their tone, but for the fact that I know you would not be willing to pollute your paper with such trash and falsehoods.

Now, the whole burden of the song of Genevians is a mere tissue of falsehoods from beginning to end. They begin, in the editorial, by stating that “Captain King said that he would not give them up, (the arms), only on proper authority;” then follows their tirade of abuse and falsehoods against Captain Joslyn, and in vindication of King, that makes the cheek tinge with shame for his countrymen. Why did they not tell the truth, and say they were holding the arms, under no *pretended authority* of or from the State? Why do they venture to so contumaciously abuse and falsify Captain Joslyn? The answer to this is plain; they knew he was gone to defend his country, and therefore he could not attend to them in person or that editor would not have penned that article or those resolutions, (they minded to not say who proposed those resolutions), would have never passed. I was heartily sorry to see my friend James’ name attached to those resolutions.

Now, a brief synopsis of the facts in that unfortunate affair will satisfy my Geneva friends that they have been very foolish in the premises.

What are those facts? Mr. King took pains and trouble, in a commendable way, to get the arms for the Geneva boys and himself – they were in his hands and subject to the order of the Government or the Lodi boys. When Captain Joslyn had his company full and had received orders to march, finding that those arms were at Geneva, and knowing that King's company was not accepted, he telegraphed to Springfield and obtained the order for the guns published last week. When this order was received, Capt. Joslyn selected Charles Harvey, a son of one of our oldest and most respectable citizens, a member of the Board of Supervisors, and young Mr. Harvey has resided at Geneva and is well known there as a young man of truth and veracity and good moral character – Capt. Joslyn sent him with the order from the Adj. General and the Sheriff's order, to which Mr. King replied, he "*should not give up the guns.*" Mr. Harvey went to the office and telegraphed Capt. Joslyn the answer; Joslyn replied to remain and he would come and *take the guns*; but Harvey getting no reply, (the operator at Geneva refusing to give it to Mr. Harvey, but gave it to Mr. King, hence King's preparation to meet the boys.) Captain Joslyn selected 20 (not 45, as stated in the Geneva paper) of his boys, went down, got the Sheriff, showed him a certified copy of the Elgin telegraph operator, of the Q. Master's order, the Sheriff went to the quarters of Lord King, told him the order was supreme and must be obeyed, to which King replied he would open the door for no one until *his friends* had seen the order and advised his compliance, and that anyone attempting to enter, did so at his peril. Here is a moment when cool council might have prevailed, for had Mr. C. Patten, A. Harrington, C. B. Dodson, Judge Wilson, Mr. Nelson or *any other* Genevian of sense been there and told the bull-head to have opened the door he would probably have done it, but remember Capt. Joslyn was in no mood for parley or delay – he had agreed to march at 9 o'clock next morning, he considered the obstinacy of King had deprived him of spending his *last night at home!* Perhaps for all time to come, with his wife, children and friends, and he did just what you might have expected Capt. Joslyn to do, viz., stormed the battery; and what did he find? He found King with as many men as he had, armed with clubs, iron pokers, and not balls, but a bushel of stones suitable for throwing. The rest you know – it took about two minutes for the surrender of "the King's arms." Capt. Joslyn and *every man that was with him at Geneva, with the arms*, are today mustered into regular service, and are in the field ready to do duty for their, *our* and *your country*, and had there been any of the spirit of '76 or magnanimity in the heart of Capt. King he would, the moment he knew that Joslyn was ready to go to the field and he was not, he would have said yes, sir; here are the arms, use them well for your country's defense. I have been

at trouble and expense to get them and fit them for my company, but *our country* first and personal feelings second – I will trust the State to furnish me with others.

B. E. Dodson  
Elgin, Apr. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1861

*EG, 5-2-1861*

REGIMENT No. 7.

J. Cook,	Colonel
Wyant,	Lieut. Colonel
Greuzell,	Major

OUR COMPNAY

E. S. Joslyn,	Captain
R. H. Adams,	First Lieut.
Jas. Davidson,	Sec. Lieut.
S. G. Ward,	First Serg.
Jont. Kimball,	Sec. Serg.
Fred Raymond,	Third Serg.
Geo. Wheeler,	Fourth Serg.
E. Buck, Crystal Lake,	First Corp.
J. R. Kinney,	Sec. Corporal.
Geo. Padelford,	Third Corp.
H. Handbury,	Fourth Corp.

*EG, 5-9-1861*

FROM THE BOYS.

Camp Dubois,  
Alton, Ill., May 1, 1861

Camp life is not exactly what we supposed, though we have no particular cause to find fault.

Instead of being encamped on an open prairie in canvas tents, we are quartered within the old State Prison, surrounded by great stone walls not less than 20 feet high, with sentries stationed inside and out to prevent ingress and egress. Squads of guards under corporals and sergeants are drawn each morning from the different companies.

An officer of the day gives the less important orders and the officers of the guard see that they are executed. A guard is on duty for twenty-four hours, but is relieved every two hours.

The following is the routine of drill, &c., each day:

Reveille at 5 o'clock a.m.

Company drill from 5 ½ to 6 ½

Breakfast at 7

Sergeants call for report, (sick, &c.) at 8 o'clock

Guard mounting, 9 o'clock

Company drill on manual, 10 to 11

Dinner, 12 m.

Battalion drill by divisions, 3 to 5

Dress parade and roll call, 6

Supper, 7

Roll call 8 ½

Tattoo, 9, Lights must be put out.

Taps, 9 ½ Men must be in quarters.

You can see by the above programme that we are not idle much of the time.

At half past

9 p.m. the men are very glad to lie down upon the straw, wrap their blankets around them, and get all the sleep they can between that hour and five o'clock. No person can shirk the above unless he is on the sick list or on duty.

Nearly every member of the regiment, from colonel to private, has had an attack of diarrhea, caused by drinking Mississippi water.

The reputation of our company as fighting men preceded us. Our captain is

the smartest and most popular captain on the ground. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant is the best drilled and most scientific military man in the regiment, and is recognized as such; (indeed there is every prospect that he will be promoted to the Adjutant Generalship of the regiment.) Our orderly sergeant (Ward) is the best in the encampment, and it is thought will be appointed sergeant major of the regiment.

Our sentries have been chosen from the members of the old Continentals, and attracted the attention of the colonel, who inquired to what company they belonged. They replied Company A, Captain Joslyn. He said that he “supposed so as they knew their duty.”

Our boys are in good spirits, but a thought of the wives and the little ones at home causes many a tear.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Since the foregoing was written, Buck has arrived with our things, and this afternoon we turned out into the city for drill. We are the only company in the regiment fully uniformed. Our uniforms fit well and look very neat. But the pleasure of receiving the uniforms was comparatively nothing. When the box of delicacies was opened and its contents distributed, every face brightened, every heart beat and every eye glistened with emotion. We knew that we were remembered.

Our colonel has intimated to our officers that we will be stationed on the steamer “City of Alton,” now at the dock here, for more active service. The boys are in ecstasies over it.

We fear that Buck will not be allowed to stay with us. It is contrary to rules, but as he is acquainted with Col. Cook it is possible he may yet stay.

G. W. P.

The following from a special correspondent, contains further intelligence. We are obliged to cut it down as our columns are crowded.

We send the Gazette regular according to directions.

“On Friday, a pole was erected upon the highest point of the Prison grounds or Barracks. The pole is 95 feet high, and from its top the Stars and Stripes were thrown to the breeze, amid the cheers and shouts of the troops in camp. Col. Cook, made a short but noble speech, after which Captain Joslyn was called for, and made the best speech I ever listened to. Ed. rather beat himself –he was in his element.

We are proud of our Captain. The reports that he was thinking of leaving his company for a higher office are entirely unfounded. Ed. will never leave his men; he thinks too much of them.

J. R. Rickey with others sang the “Star Spangled Banner” and hundreds joined in the chorus. They also sung the “Red White and Blue.”

Since we have been here there has been some promotions. S. G. Ward has been appointed Sergeant Major, which is the highest non-commissioned office in the army. Jont. Kimball is now Orderly, and Walter Kimball is Third Sergeant.

While I am writing, our company is falling into rank, to go to church with Captain Joslyn at their head.

Our boys are the only company that are uniformed, and they are all right.

Our company has been changed to Company A of Col. Cook’s Regiment. So you see we have the post of honor in the Ill. Volunteers. Yours Truly,

I.N. Buck

P.S. – We have not received a single copy of the Gazette.

I.N.B.

*AB, 5-9-1861*

### THE “AURORA RIFLES”

The following is a correct list of the Aurora Rifle Company, as made up from the new muster roll of said company:

#### OFFICERS

Capt. B. F. Parks, Married, age 34.  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Geo. H. Gardner, Married, age 37.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Edwin Went, Married, age 31.  
1<sup>st</sup> Sergt. E. A. Prichard, Married, age 28.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sergt. J. D. Pierce, Married, age 37.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sergt. G. B. Putnam, Single, age 22.

#### PRIVATEES

NAMES	AGE	NAMES	AGE
*Geo S Robinson	24	L Armstrong	20
E T Shedd	23	N L Thatcher	27
Myron A Wood	22	Guy C Clark	28
D L Watson	21	*M G Clark	34

*Geo B Robinson	25	Edward Sheehy	
A E Beardsley	32	John Hull	30
E M Emerson	21	Thos Bacon	20
L W Smedley	40	H H Johnston	
20			
Jas Goodwil	22	S B Strong	19
Geo W Fikes	23	M E Sherman	
21			
K H Babcock		Milton Sheer	
23			
Benj Brisbain	19	John Fisher	22
Geo Baukson	28	Orin V Anderson	
E Baird	20	H M Harmes	
22			
A B West	23	Wm Hephin	20
Thos Burt	23	John Martin	19
Mathias Sigfried	24	Eugene Brownell	20
C Shaver	33	*W E Haterfield	21
Waterman Delee	25	Geo Corklin	21
Peter Dougdale	21	John Olen	21
C C Scaffold	21	E L Carrier	20
Geo W Smith	30	John Williams	
21			
W B Corthell	21	Town Skeley	
*P C Coster		S P Scamp	23
John M Jolley	24	L G Ketchum	
25			
Peter Thompson	28	Benj Morrissy	22
Newton Wells	24	Isaac P Hunt	19
Nelson Terrrill	25	Fred Rink	23
Eli H Hailey	29	R S Johnston	18
G M Cronk		John A Schuley	34
T C Hays	23	Emil Seglier	28
*Wm H Cheetham	23	John Eddy	19
J L Pelan	23	Eldorado Knight	19
Geo W Miers	20	Barney Hines	
23			
G S Beardsley	20	H C Whipple	
21			
Edwin Wales		H R Allison	21

Grove Arnold			*Jas McGuire	
26				
Bartley Dein	28		P S Garton	27
*L H Congdon		24	Geo W Young	
22				
John F Foster		21	M F Bomer	22
R F Jay		20	W A Hawley	
29				
A Barnes	23		Jas Clargill	23
Chas Pelan	36		Jas B Lowrey jr	27
S Cramer	25		John North	22
*John Woodward	33		Wm Irvin	21
F W Cushing		18	Geo W Walker	
38				

The Rifles have been attending to their drill, and having a good time generally during the past week. On Saturday they obtained their neat new uniforms from the manufacturers. Their doings on Sunday are recorded elsewhere. On Tuesday a general parade was had about town. Nine rousing cheers given and some neat speeches made. The company also called upon the Hon. I. G. Wilson at the Empire House. The Judge made them a fine speech highly complimentary to the boys, and their honorable Captain. On their way across the river nine hearty cheers were given at the Beacon office for which compliment the boys must consider is duly thankful. On the west side Hon. B. F. Findley was called upon, and cheers and speeches indulged in.

The boys start for Dixon today. Let them have a crowded escort to the cars. Though they do not go directly to the war it is more than probable that they will see some active service before they return. They are ready for the roughest.

Washington, May 15, 1861.

Governor Yates:

The quota of troops from your state, for three years or during the war, under the second call of the President, is six regiments. The plan of organization contained in Order No. 15 has already been forwarded you by mail. As soon as the regiments are ready the mustering officer sent to your state will muster them into service, who has already been instructed to do so.

SIMON CAMERON

Secretary of War.

These Independent Regiments of infantry to-wit: Nos. 7 to 22, inclusive, which you had been authorized to raise, were in June, either full or nearly so. In May, June and July, the following regiments of infantry were authorized by the Secretary of War.

	23d	Colonel Mulligan		24 <sup>th</sup>	Colonel Hecter
25 <sup>th</sup>	“	Coler	33d	“	Hovey
34 <sup>th</sup>	“	Kirk		35 <sup>th</sup>	“ Smith
36 <sup>th</sup>	“	Greusel		37 <sup>th</sup>	“ White
39 <sup>th</sup>	“	Light		40 <sup>th</sup>	“ Hicks
41 <sup>st</sup>	“	Pugh		42 <sup>nd</sup>	“ Webb
44 <sup>th</sup>	“	Knobelsdorf	45 <sup>th</sup>	“	Smith
47 <sup>th</sup>	“	Bryner		52 <sup>nd</sup>	“ Wilson
55 <sup>th</sup>	“	Stuart			

*WS, 5-15-1861*

#### MEETING OF THE WOODSTOCK RIFLE COMPANY

The meeting organized by electing Wm. H. Stewart Chairman, and R. F. Crawford Secretary.

The object of the meeting was then stated by M. L. Joslyn.

On motion, proceeded to ballot for Captain, when M. L. Joslyn was unanimously elected.

On motion proceeded to ballot for First Lieutenant, when Wm. H. Stewart

was unanimously elected.

On motion, proceeded to ballot for Second Lieutenant, when on last ballot O. S. Johnson received a majority of the votes cast, and was declared unanimously elected.

On motion of M. L. Joslyn, a committee of three were appointed to recommend a suitable uniform, and report at next meeting. The Chair appointed M. L. Joslyn, E. E. Thomas, and J. H. Johnson.

Moved and carried that the company be called "The Woodstock Rifles."

Moved and carried that the proceedings of the meeting, together with the muster roll, be published in all newspapers in the county.

On motion adjourned till the call of the committee on uniforms. W. H. STEWART,

R. F. CRAWFORD, Sec'y.

Woodstock, May 7, 1861

#### MUSTER ROLL OF THE WOODSTOCK RIFLES

M. L. Joslyn, Capt.	W. E. Allen
W. H. Stewart, 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieut.	A. G. Belcher
O. S. Johnson, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut.	J. Kimberly
M. A. Smith	I. Slocum
M. D. Giles	
S. Van Guren	W. Hart
L. W. Potter	E. L. Thomas
P. Austin	
W. E. Graves	M. D. McCahill
J. S. Medlar	
P. Bowan	A. C. Shecock
Mack Church	Alvin Bunker
W. W. Paine	Q. B. Kent
G. D. Greenleaf	John McMahan
Chas. Kulmert	A. H. Sellers
G. F. Mills	Caleb Rich
Jos. Petrie	J. C. Choate
Geo. Parsons	G. T. Kester
J. H. Tappan	J. L. Hoyt
R. F. Crawford	W. A. Partker
N. Donnelly	Frank Church
L. S. Church	Silas Dickerson
A. A. Gates	Jos. Warner
Ralph Pruit	C. O. Parsons
H. M. Cornell	A. Ramsey

A. W. Tappen  
J. H. Moray  
J. H. Johnson  
A. J. Kester

Chas. S. Sloan  
John Corlet  
John Neimeyer

*EG, 6-5-1861*

## VISIT TO CAMP DUBOIS

As we had previously advised our readers, we started on Friday last for Alton to visit our volunteers in camp. Mr. R. W. Padelford accompanied us. Armed with passes on the Illinois Central Road to Mattoon, we left Elgin at 3 p.m. and Chicago at 7. We had numerous letters and packages for the boys which we were glad to be the bearer of. We committed a blunder in putting all the bundles and packages in one large box as we thereby brought the rules of the railroad against our taking them as baggage. Had we taken along forty small boxes and bundles they would have gone with perhaps a little charge for extra baggage. We write this for the benefit of others who may contemplate a visit on a similar errand.

We had a dreary storm all night, the monotony of which was relieved a little at Kankakee by a mob, which attacked a private banker and broker who had closed his doors a few days before, and who had not paid his depositors. As he and his family were about to come aboard the cars, a German woman stepped up and demanded her "monish." Instantly the mob assaulted him with blows and terrific yells, but he was rescued and shut up by his friends without much injury.

At seven the next morning we stopped at the Alton House and took breakfast, after which we started for Camp Dubois.

The officer on guard, as soon as our name was mentioned, professed to recognize our right to the name from a fancied resemblance to the captain in camp.

Once inside we had little trouble in finding the quarters of Company A, where we met a cordial reception from fifty or more rough looking, but kind hearted young fellows.

A thousands questions of home and friends were eagerly asked and answered. A pocket full of letters were distributed, but the pleasure of this was dashed a little by the disappointed look of those who received none. The same was true when we come to open the "big box." Why didn't they send something to me? was asked in a tone that indicated sore disappointment. We hope the friends of such will make amends by writing to them at once. The anxiety of the soldiers to hear from home and to receive some little token of love is very great. Of course it would appear unsoldierly in them to say so in their letters and some of their friends

may construe their silence into indifference. Nothing could be more unjust. Their hearts are tender to those left behind.

We should have said that Captain Joslyn and Lieutenant Adams were absent on a visit to St. Louis. But the hearty welcome of all the company atoned for their absence.

After a little, Sergeant Major Ward showed us through the encampment, introducing us to the officers and exhibiting the condition of the men. As a whole the encampment was in good order, and the discipline measurably strict.

Our free American boys, many of whom never saw a camp, are of course a little inclined to doubt the necessity of real military discipline. The officers are kind and indulgent, and with few exceptions, but little disposed to “strut in their feathers.” Probably no regiment in the State has had such dry comfortable quarters. The old penitentiary buildings were very convenient. The black smith shops, cooper’s shops, &c., were just the things for cooking and all the other purposes of the soldiers. Their quarters were all dry and well supplied with camp equipments.

The health of the camp was comparatively good. Of Company A, only one man was much sick. That was Mr. Densmore, whose death and burial we notice elsewhere. Keyes is suffering from rheumatism. Vining and Wolaver were just recovering from fever. E. Buck came down with a slight attack, while we were there. He was comfortably cared for at the Alton House. Wheeler, of Udina, was still feeble, and it is thought will soon be returned home as being unfit for real service. The rest of the company, officers and all, were very hearty.

We took dinner in camp Saturday, supper on Sunday and breakfast on Monday. The Captain and Lieutenant having retired, gave up their birth on Sunday night, and Mr. P. and ourselves enjoyed the luxury of a night’s lodging amid the tramp of sentinels.

The boy Jack employed by the “officers mess” as cook, gets up a nice dinner, and the other boys claim that their “niggers” can do equally well. So we think there is no danger of the boys starving.

Sunday many of the company attended church with the captain three times, and if they are as good *out* of the church as *in* they are doing rather better than when at home.

Monday morning we took the packet for St. Louis, and spent the day among secessionists, an account of which we must reserve for another occasion.

When we returned in the evening the regiment was all on board the Government steamer “City of Alton”, under orders to proceed to Cairo. We have been asked by many of the friends why they are sent to Cairo. Whether there is to be fighting there or whether there is to be a move down the river. To these questions we can only reply, Gen. Scott has not informed us anything about his

plans. It may have been an oversight on his part, but it cannot be helped.

Any one who reads the papers knows just as much as any other man about what is or what is not to be done.

One thing is certain. Our friends have gone to Cairo to spend the next six weeks executing the orders of their superior officers, at which time those who are alive and choose to do so can return home. The regiment has been tendered for the war by the field officers, and has been accepted, but it remains with the men to consent to the arrangement or not as they please. From what we saw we incline to the opinion that the Elgin company will not remain longer than the time for which they enlisted at first.

Tuesday noon we were home again, well satisfied with our visit. We enjoyed the thing much, and we think contributed something to the pleasure of the brave men who stand ready to peril all for their country.

“God bless our brave young volunteers.”

P.S. – The Regiment arrived at Cairo on Tuesday noon.

*AB, 6-8-1861*

#### ALTON CORRESPONDENCE

Camp Du Bois, June 8d, 1861

Dear Chronicle: We this morning have orders to be ready to move this evening. The boys are joyful; but we will not have better quarters than we have had here. We have about twelve in the hospital.

Another of the Elgin Company, Eli Densmore – died last night. His remains were escorted to the depot this morning, to be sent home.

There are six or seven of the Aurora Guards unfit for duty; two are here in the hospital; one Geo. Corman is low but we think will recover.

For the past week we have had an abundance of flowers and strawberries donated by the benevolent citizens. They have bestowed upon us an unexceptional generosity – particularly the sick they have visited often. May they enjoy their reward.

W. W. R.

EG, 6-12-1861

Camp Defiance, Cairo, Ill.  
June 4, 1861.

We received orders Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> to start for Cairo immediately. We were not long in packing our camp fixtures, and at about 9 o'clock p.m., we bade a lasting (at any rate we hope it will be such) adieu to "Camp Dubois," vulgarly called State's Prison. We crowded thick as bees upon the good steamboat City of Alton, and at ten o'clock backed away from the levee, and were "off for the wars again."

The people of Alton with hardly an exception were sorry to see us leave. Thousands gathered on the levee, the Alton brass band – and a splendid one, too, by the way – was on hand to soothe us all with sweet music, and thousands of loyal men and women cheered us as we left.

At the Arsenal, 4 miles below St. Louis, we were challenged by a shot across the bow of the boat. The boat rounded to and our Colonel answered the "Who comes there," with "The City of Alton, with Col. Cook's command, bound for Cairo." The usual response of "All right" was given, and our boat was soon on its journey again. At the Arsenal we learned that the steamboat, "City of Louisiana" had left the Arsenal six hours before with Colonel McArthur's and a regiment from the Arsenal on board, also bound for Cairo. During the night, we were tied up about four hours on account of a dense fog. None of us were sorry for this, as it gave us an opportunity to see by day light, the towns scattered on each side of the great river. One thing surprised us all; that was the apparent unanimity and enthusiasm displayed *on the Missouri* side, for the Union; at nearly every hamlet the stars and stripes were flying, and the people were gathered to cheer us on. At Cape Girardeau, a town of considerable importance, the old flag was particularly prominent. Every inhabitant, it seemed, had a flag, a handkerchief, or their hats and bonnets to wave in honor of the soldiers. Just below the town is a splendid convent. Quite a number of priests were in the enclosure, and each lifted his cap reverently as we passed. At this point we got in sight of the "City of Louisiana"; and for the next hour or two had quite an exciting race; we were too fast for our competitor though, and after a while left it behind, out of sight.

Several miles above Cairo is Smith's battery. We exchanged salutes. Our band struck up with patriotic music and we hurried on. Bird's Point, with its hundreds of white tents regularly laid out in streets, and looking very inviting, the river front lined with the soldiers of Col. Shuttneis' St. Louis regiment was soon passed, and our boat turned into the Ohio River, and tied up at Cairo – within five minutes we had been in three States.

After a short consultation we left the boat and marched through the streets of Cairo to the back part of the town, to the ground assigned us for our camp. The day was hot but the boys raised their tents with alacrity, and before night were resting in them quite comfortably.

The only thing connected with our removal, with which we could find fault, was the lack of provisions. During our whole trip lasting, including time to put up tents and unpack provisions, nearly 24 hours, we had nothing but baker's bread and soda crackers to eat. The boys took their lot without grumbling, however, and now are quite comfortably situated. All we fear is rain—a good shower would make the mud a foot deep all over our camp.

No person at all acquainted with Cairo will claim any advantages for the city for healthiness. It was said that New Orleans had “two hundred and eighty distinct stinks, with several wards to hear from”; as far as heard from Cairo's greatly superior to New Orleans in that respect.

We learn that Gen. Pillow, is just below the Kentucky line with 10,000 rebel troops. No intelligent person that I have conversed with apprehends any attack on Cairo. This afternoon all the commissioned officers of the different regiments here hold a meeting for consultation, pursuant to an order from Gen. Prentiss. So far as I can learn, nothing of great importance was discussed. Volunteers are concentrating here rapidly; there are about 8,000 here now.

G. W. P.

*EG, 6-12-1861*

Cairo is the last end of all creation. They have to fence it in to keep the river out. *Fact!* There is an artificial bank, or levee from 12 to 20 feet high, and on the east side I guess it is over 30 feet high, to keep the river from flooding the miserable town. Town! With one street – with houses on only one side of the street, and every other house a beer saloon!

Our camp is nearer the Mississippi than the Ohio, but all our drinking water is brought from the Ohio by water carts. Each company has had a cake of ice (about 80 pounds) each day to put in our water barrels. Don't know whether they intend to let us have it while we stay or not. The weather is tremendous hot, but I guess we can stand it.

There goes a gun at the battery, bringing a boat too! I should like to belong to the artillery here. Yesterday I went down to the battery and had a closer view of the “*pillow-cases*,” or big guns. They are monstrous affairs, I tell you. They are black and shiny – three of them wrought iron, and carry a chunk of iron weighing 32 pounds. (That little one at Elgin is a six pounder.) While down to the battery a boat came down the river and did not whistle for landing and they fired a blank

cartridge towards her, but she did not mind it, then they rolled in a cannon ball and sent it spinning across her bows on the water. That time she ducked her head and whistled, and as soon as she could, landed. Capt. Barker's Dragoons are here. They make a fine appearance and if called upon, will probably do good service. They are armed with a saber and a pair of holster pistols each.

Well, I must close. Don't be alarmed if you do not hear from me as often as in times past, for I can't always write when I would like to.

G. F. Wheeler

*AB, 6-13-1861*

CAPT. JOSLYN AND HIS COMPANY AT MOUND CITY.

The telegraph, on Saturday last, said that information had reached Gen. Prentiss that an armed band of secessionists was located on the Kentucky side of the Ohio, opposite Mound City, six miles above Cairo, and that they had announced their intention to burn Mound City. The General sent the Elgin Company from Col. Cook's regiment, and one company from Col. McArthur's regiment, under the command of Capt. E. S. Joslyn, to occupy and defend the town. We warn the commander of that band of secessionists, that he had better not fall into Joslyn's hands, for if he does he may bid good-bye to "Old Kaintuck." If he does not believe Ed. and his men will fight before they will run, we refer him for information on that score to Capt. John King, of Geneva, in this county. We would like to have an equal; number of the cavalry try their hand at Ed. Those that "lived to fight another day," would be pretty apt to come to the contest with a wholesome fear of the "mud sills of Kane County.

*EG, 6-19-1861*

## A PERSONAL MATTER.

Dr. D. W. Young has handed us an article for publication signed by every member of the Aurora Rifles, now in Camp Dement, and a large proportion of the regiment, in which it is stated that he has not neglected his duties as assistant surgeon at that post, and requesting his acceptance, permanently, of the appointment of assistant surgeon of the regiment. They have also, in addition, offered him two hundred dollars of their wages per month if he would remain.

The article contains personal allusions of such a character against Col. Parks that we cannot publish it. We are pained to learn of any disagreement between these gentlemen, and are still more sorry that the men of the regiment should take sides in the matter.

*EG, 6-19-1861*

Hints to letter writers. – Remember, always put your stamps on the right hand upper corner of your letters. It will save the post office employees crushed fingers.

Remember and prepay your postage, and be sure you pay six cents where the letter is double weight, else it may find its way to the dead letter office.

Prepay your drop letters. It is a little matter to carp about; yet Uncle Sam says the post-master must send all unpaid drop letters to the dead letter office.

*EG, 6-19-1861*

The “Soldier Boys” who made the row in town last week, are still at Dixon. “Judge” Pinney went for them, and couldn’t get them. Then Sheriff Andrus tried the business, got them into custody, when they were reclaimed by a writ of habeas corpus. Evidence we learn, has been sent forward to ----- - ----- --- - excitement at Dixon.

*AB, 7-4-1861*

### A FOX RIVER REGIMENT FOR THE WAR

Why do not the various Captains and military men of this vicinity join together and organize a Regiment and tender it to the War Department immediately? There is no doubt but the War Department will accept more men, and we can see no reason why a Regiment from Kane, Kendall, DuPage and DeKalb Counties would not be accepted at once. Certain it is, that President Lincoln, and Gov. Yates, must know that they have received valuable assistance from these Counties, and that their true and patriotic Union sustaining men have had but a very small show as yet, while Chicago, Springfield, and Quincy, have been very liberally accommodated. There certainly is some of the best material for such a regiment in Kane, Kendall, DuPage and DeKalb Counties, that the State can afford. There is no reason why such a Regiment should not be accepted. Who would not like to join such a Regiment and fight for their Country, providing they could be led by such men as Maj. Greusel, Capt. Joslyn, and the various other veteran warriors of the Mexican war experience. There are now many companies organized in these Counties. Dundee has one, Elgin two, St. Charles one, Geneva one, Batavia one, Aurora two, Sugar Grove one, DeKalb county has several, Kendall several, DuPage has, or will have several. Kane County has three companies in the field, two of them for three months, whose time has now nearly expired, and the boys will be home soon. Most or all of these are ready and willing to go for three years, or during the war, provided they can reorganize and elect new officers. What better chance can they have or desire than to come and join with their friends and acquaintances and organize such a Regiment. Who will move in this matter, and see that such an organization is perfected immediately. All those Captains who have companies will please send in their names to the *Beacon* office immediately, and we will see what can be done. Come on boys and organize your Regiment, and it will be accepted. Where is friend Farnsworth? Will he, Judge Wilson, Plato and other friends of the boys, take hold and help?

*EG, 7-10-1861*

### CAPT. JOSLYN AT HOME

On Tuesday our town was filled with excitement by the return of Capt. Joslyn and about 20 of his men. They are home on furloughs preparatory to

entering the service for the war.

A portion of the company who could not enlist for the war will be home at the end of the three months for which they enlisted. The Capt. wishes to obtain men to take their places who will go in for the war. He will be here ten or twelve days, and all "brave young volunteers" who wish to look the enemy in the face can consult him on the subject. Come on, now, ye men of muscle and valor.

*EG, 7-17-1861*

### ELGIN UNION GREYS

Ed. Gazette:

This recently organized Military Company had a special; meeting at their armory last Friday evening, for the purpose of electing officers in accordance with the new military law of the State. The meeting was called to order by E. S. Wilcox, Dr. M. B. Baldwin the chairman, stated the object of the meeting, and E. S. Chappell made a few pointed remarks upon the importance of electing the right men for the right places.

The following is the result of the election:

Captain,	Dr. M. B. Baldwin
1 <sup>st</sup> Lieut.,	E. S. Chappell
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut.,	Joseph Hemmens
1 <sup>st</sup> Sergeant,	E. S. Wilcox
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sergeant,	Fulton Gifford
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sergeant,	Geo. Clarkson
4 <sup>th</sup> Sergeant,	Fred Kothe
1 <sup>st</sup> Corporal,	M. Sherman
2 <sup>nd</sup> Corporal,	L. P. Tickner
3 <sup>rd</sup> Corporal,	D. C. B. Rowland
4 <sup>th</sup> Corporal,	E. W. King
Treasurer,	Geo. B. Adams
Secretary,	Dr. C. A. Jaeger

The voting was spirited and harmonious, and each officer elect was greeted with deafening applause.

There are now 62 names on the muster roll and still we hear of many others who wait to enroll. Another month more will give at least 20 men.

C. A Jaeger,  
Sec. E. U. G.

*AB, 7-18-1861*

## LETTER FROM CAMP JOSLYN

We give place to the following communication from Camp Joslyn, for the reason that it seems to indicate the course our first company have determined upon. We have all along been of the opinion that it would have been far better for all concerned, had their friends here at home, allowed them to come to their own conclusions, and not have volunteered advice until asked for. Each man in the company is qualified to elect whether he will re-enlist for the war under the three months organization or not, and were we to say anything in relation to the matter, all that we should feel authorized to say, would be, "stand upon your own judgment and decide for yourselves." We of course are very sorry that the company have not seen fit to re-enlist, or rather we should say, we are sorry that circumstances have arisen to prevent their united re-enlistment. They are, however, the best judges of the validity and justice of their complaints. They are all men of courage, patriotism and good sense, and although we may think, or others may think that they have jumped, in many instances, to wrong conclusions, yet it is their business and not ours. We have, in common with all our citizens, felt a pride in their welfare, and willingly accord to them the credit they deserve for doing what they have already done for their country. No company went to the field with more alacrity than they did, and we believe there was as much genuine patriotism wrapped up in their hearts, as any body of men who ever shouldered a musket or drew a sword in defense of the right. What was true of them in April last is true of them today, and each and every man of them shall have a front seat in our affections so long as we live. What we have said of our men is true of Captain Joslyn's Company, and every other Company that has gone to the field and offered their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honors for the maintenance of the Government. We say to our fellow citizens, give them a crown of glory and make room for them in your heart of hearts.

An effort is being made here for the formation of a Regiment, in this and the neighboring counties. Thus far there seems to be some prospect of a success, though it is not yet certain that one will be raised. Much will depend upon the encouragement and interest taken in it by our leading citizens and the whole community. It will require a great deal of labor and much sympathy and support to put a Regiment in the field, but we believe it could be done and should be at once.

If there are any who are disposed to turn a cold shoulder upon the project,

we would like to ask them what their fortunes, their hopes, or their future prospects are worth in case the rebellion is not speedily put down, and the contest made "short and decisive." Count not the cost, but give the weight of your influence for that measure which will place in the field the most and the bravest men. It has been charged upon the people of the north that they love money more than they do their country, and that we would see our sacred rights trampled upon before we would spend our money or our lives to defend them. This great sin has been spoken so often and so long, that the fathers of it, and almost the whole world, have come to regard it as truth. Upon this idea, more than anything else, was the rebellion set in motion. Shall we who live here in the rural districts of Northern Illinois and in the neighborhood of the Fox River Valley, prove ourselves worthy of the imputation? It is true that we have contributed already to the suppression of the rebellion, but have we done our full duty so long as a man stands ready to shoulder a musket for the defense of the best government ever conceived for the protection of the inalienable rights of man.

*AB, 7-18-1861*

Camp Joslyn, Mound City, Ill., July  
10

Dear Beacon; -- A copy of your valuable paper of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. Has just come to hand, and noticing an article on the Fox River Valley Regiment question, which so nearly corresponds with our own views, that I cannot forbear writing you of the feeling of the large majority of the boys from Kane and the adjoining counties, now serving in this most southern point of Federal occupation. Owing to some bad management somewhere, the three month volunteers have not been nor will be paid until the 25<sup>th</sup> inst.; said neglect has caused a great division among us on the three year question, and many would have enlisted here for three years had they received enough to pay their passage home, etc., but could not get one cent, and have therefore concluded to remain until the termination of the three months, and then, although as full of patriotism as when they left home, they will return; but not to remain. You will find them again "eager for the fray," and rushing to the standard which they yet hope to defend on the field and amid the din and smoke of battle. And let me assure that their eagerness would not be diminished by the knowledge, or even supposition that the men whose names you suggest could be induced to lead them. Capt. Joslyn is an officer second to none in the Brigade. He has the confidence and respect of his entire command, and his orders on the field

are given with a precision which an old and experienced officer would envy. On the drill it is known where to look for "Ed." and Co. A., for if his lungs are not of brass, they certainly ring forth commands in a tone that would do credit to brazen ones.

Major Gruisel. the old "Mexican war horse" of the regiment is so well known in Kane County as a military man of the first grade, that it needs no words of commendation to prove his superiority as a commanding officer.

There is nothing to prevent a fine Regiment being formed from those counties, and without much doubt they would be immediately accepted and placed in the immediate vicinity of a *fight*.

The boys from Fox River deserve some such treatment as this. Those who have spent their three months in camp without even the excitement of a scouting party, now want to go where there will be a probability of something to do, and that right soon. The probabilities are that the Brigade will not be marched from this position until September, as this is a highly important post and must be held at all hazards, and I assure you our boys have had just enough of idle camp life. Other and weighty reasons they now advance for wishing to come home are, they are very anxious to be members of a Regiment made up totally from Kane and adjoining counties. It would have pleased you to be present at the quarters of the Elgin and Aurora boys when the article in the *Beacon* was read. You would have probably noticed quite an improvement in cheering. You may rely on a large majority of our boys to assist in forming your Regiment, which we earnestly hope will be formed at once. Just now is the time in all this campaign to secure a fine Regiment and good commanding officers, for after a few weeks there will not be such officers to be found. Then let the men in authority in Kane, Kendall and DuPage rally their forces.

We are very finely located here as you have probably learned before, and but for the interminable inactivity of camp life, we should be in fine spirits. We are just far enough from Cairo, that concentration of bad whisky, mosquitoes of gigantic proportions, swamp miasma, and general central depot of the lowest specimens of the *genus homo* that the State can furnish, to appreciate the beauty of our location. The health of the Regiment is good. There are but five sick men in the hospital, and their sickness was contracted in Cairo. Only one of the Kane County boys is sick, (Jack Gallagher of Aurora) and he is recovering slowly. We have just heard of some battles in Missouri, and we are in hopes we shall yet have an opportunity to try our mettle before we return to our homes. We shall keep a sharp lookout for the announcement that a Fox River Regiment has been formed and been offered at Washington, and we know if such was the case, said Regiment would be en route for Virginia in less than one week after accepted.

Rally and form without delay, is the earnest wish of the boys.

AB, 7-18-1861

### THE FOX RIVER REGIMENT TO BE A REALITY

Enough has been done and heard to make the *Fox River Regiment* almost a certainty. Communications have been received from various persons and sources, all tending to the same determination of making the regiment move off instanter. Of course any body that has any fight or patriotism in them, is pleased with the idea of joining a regiment of neighbors and acquaintances for the war, providing they can be allowed the selection of such officers as they would be willing to serve under. We certainly have competent and efficient men enough in these several counties to officer a regiment well. There was a meeting held at the courthouse, in Geneva, yesterday, by the movers and interested ones, for the purpose of perfecting the organization of the regiment. Their deliberations had not transpired in time for this week's paper. We presume that the necessary committees have been appointed, and the various initiative steps taken. We learn from the movers in the matter, that they contemplate having the regiment composed of about 7 companies of Infantry, two of Cavalry and 1 of Artillery. This will certainly make a most efficient and desirable regiment, and there can be no reasonable doubt but the War Department will accept such a regiment immediately and gladly. The probabilities are that our Cavalry boys throughout the country will find it necessary to ask our Board of Supervisors for a little more assistance, and we have no doubt it will be cheerfully granted, in order to perfect the above plans. We know that a majority of the tax payers of Kane County are patriots and liberal minded men who desire to see this war prosecuted with a vim, and we believe that they will not only send their sons to fight their country's battles, but will furnish them both money and horses to equip themselves throughout. Citizens of Kane and adjoining counties, prepare your cars for the muscle of the Fox River Regiment!

*EG, 7-24-1861*

## A DAY AT THE ENCAMPMENT

Cairo, Ill., July 16, 1861.

Mr. Editor: -- Partly in the prosecution of the great work in which the American Bible Society is engaged – the supply of our army with the Scriptures – and partly for the gratification of curiosity, I have been spending the day at Mound City, Cairo and Bird's Point, and now redeem a few moments from pressing duties to record some facts and impressions that may be of interest to your readers.

Mound City, six miles above Cairo, on the Ohio River, is connected with the Illinois Central Railroad by a branch three miles long and a diminutive locomotive and car brought us to the "city" at midnight. On awakening this morning I found it a beautiful place, named after a beautiful mound which had been planted with trees and enclosed, and overlooking the clear and placid Ohio, and several miles of bottom land covered with timber on the Kentucky shore. But the place like many others in the Prairie State has little but its name to convince one that it really is a city. Still there are buildings here which would honor Chicago or New York, and among these is the fine block in which the Elgin Company are quartered, and which was nearly or quite empty previous to their arrival.

I was not long after daylight in "storming" this castle, and taking by surprise several of our Elgin boys just as they were rising from their bunks. Capt. Joslyn was absent, but I was politely shown through the quarters by Lieut. Davidson and Quartermaster Buck, and thus had a bird's eye view of "life in a camp."

It must be confessed that this is not exactly like life at home, with the kind care and refining influences of mothers and wives and sisters, and it is not surprising that many of our volunteers, though brave as others, are beginning to count even the hours of the remainder of their term. But notwithstanding the privations and dangers of a soldier's life, some fifteen or twenty have already re-enlisted, and more will probably do so.

At eight o'clock, under the escort of friend Buck, who seemed to have a steamboat at his service, I stepped on board the W. H. Brown which glided swiftly down the river, and soon landed us on the levee of the far famed city of Cairo. I was not long in finding another escort in the person of Mr. E. Folsom, a colporteur of the army under the patronage of the Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago. With his assistance arrangements were made for a depository of Testaments in Cairo from which Chaplains and others could draw for the supply of the army.

We find that many of the local Bible Societies in Illinois have supplied the volunteers from the various counties before they left their homes, but many others

came without being furnished, and during the past few weeks we have found it necessary to order several thousand copies in English and German for those at Cairo, Alton, Caseyville, and other places in the southern part of the State.

In the afternoon we visited Bird's Point, in Missouri, taking the Kentucky shore on the way, as our boat had business there, and this gave me an opportunity of stepping for the first time upon the soil of that State, and of being in three different States within an hour.

In passing over to the Missouri side, we could but notice the difference between the waters of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers – the former clear and comparatively pure, and the latter so thick with soil in solution that for some time after the confluence they refuse to unite, and each river, though flowing between the same banks, is distinctly visible. This is the case at the junction of the Mississippi at the Missouri above St. Louis, but eventually the turbid Missouri imparts its muddy character to the whole river, and makes it as different from the Ohio when they meet as it was different from the Missouri before it was defiled by it. This mixture of soil and water constitutes the beverage of the troops at Bird's Point. As I took the cup of a volunteer and felt the gravel grate my teeth while attempting to swallow the villainous compound, I could not resist the conclusion that without more care to filter and purify than seems to be exercised, the health of the brave men will soon suffer severely from this impurity.

Bird's Point opposite Cairo, is the starting place of a railroad which has been projected south westward to Fulton, Ark., and completed about eighteen miles, but it is now in a state of "suspended animation" by Government order. The residence of Col. Bird with his slave houses and out buildings, the railroad depot, the St. George Hotel, and perhaps two or three other buildings, made up the village (if it may be called such), before its occupation as an encampment. Three regiments are now there, and unlike those at Mound City and Cairo, are living mainly in tents. The encampment occupies the space between the residence of Col. Bird and the river, some of his growing corn having been cut down to make room for it, and what was once a cultivated field or a beautiful green is now being disfigured by unsightly earthworks which may remain to mar the beauty of the place after the army shall have retired. I say may remain, for the mighty Mississippi may usurp the place of the encampment, as it has already done the present season the site of the railroad depot a few yards above, and washed away some fifty or sixty acres around. To save the track of the railroad and the depot building they had to be hastily removed, and preparations are now being made for the removal of the St. George Hotel, the river which in the spring runs several yards from it having encroached to within a few feet, and its strong current still rapidly carrying the ground away.

A call upon Col. Bird, and a view for the first time of slaves at work, were

among the interesting items of the visit to the point. We were admitted to the premises and suffered to pass out afterwards by sentinels who guarded the yard in front of the house. Indeed these sentinels both here and at Cairo seemed almost ubiquitous, and but for the pass of my friend would have been insuperable obstacles in the way of my strolls. The house of Col. Bird might have been a mansion once, but is now somewhat dilapidated, and sadly needs a shower of paint, and the general appearance of things around presents a striking contrast to the thrift and refinement manifested in the homes of the better class of farmers at the south. We found the proprietor sitting in the front porch of his house overlooking the camp and the river, and quite ready to engage in conversation. In the course of it he informed us that he came to that place with his father in 1803, and that a brother of his was the first settler in Cairo in 1806. The conversation naturally turned upon the war, and we readily understood that he looked with disfavor upon the refusal of Congress to make any compromise with the South.

The slaves of Col. Bird had cut his wheat some weeks ago, and we now observed some of them unloading hay. The process required about three times as much time as a freeman with an object in view would need, and the tools, were crotched sticks, which were used also in the place of rakes. Other evidence of the effects of slavery upon industry and thrift were not wanting.

Returning to Cairo, a few moments were devoted to a tour through one of the hospitals. In one instance we noticed a mother who had come from some portion of the State to watch by the sick bed of her son, but generally the invalids I should think were well cared by the professional nurses. The six or seven hospitals in the camp are now pretty well filled, but the sickness is not generally severe, and the sun having dried up the cess pools of Cairo, there is nothing now there to make the place particularly unhealthy.

It was interesting as we passed through the wards of the hospital and the avenues of the camp to witness with what gratitude and anxiety both the sick and the well received from the colporteur the tracts and papers which he distributed. It was a privilege to place in the hands of the chaplains of the various camps which I visited during the day, orders on our depository at Cairo for Testaments, which they will distribute here after *not in vain*. The volunteers are *hungry* for something to read, and their friends in various parts of the State will do them a great favor by sending them good books.

L.

AB, 7-25-1861

THE NEW REGIMENT

The events of the last week make the organization of a Regiment in this neighborhood absolutely imperative upon us. It cannot be said that they are not needed. No man who is a patriot can lay any obstacle in the way of its formation, for every man who can possibly be spared should be encouraged to go, and, everything done to help him get into a condition so that he will be properly equipped for the contest. The reverses that have befallen our army in Virginia, should only nerve our hearts and strengthen our wills to uphold and sustain the cause of liberty, and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution and laws. We should all the more feel a readiness to sacrifice the last farthing that we possessed, rather than that the despotism of slavery should possess this free government, and trample upon the sacred rights and prerogatives of a free people. Better, far better, throw into the scale that weighs out to us the guarantees of a free government every dollar in the land, and every brave heart that breathes, than to suffer the despot that controls this rebellion to get possession of the government, and build upon its ruins a tyranny more to be despised than anything else upon the face of the earth.

We call attention to the proceedings of a meeting held at the court house in Geneva, on Wednesday last. Since that meeting four companies have been offered to make up the Regiment, and indications now are, that during the coming week four more will be ready to forward their muster rolls, and that in four weeks at farthest, the New Regiment will be ready to go into camp. There is no doubt that what it will be accepted by the Government. The indications are that a new call for 200,000 men will be immediately made. Men will be asked to enlist from the immediate neighborhood and had we not better expend our means and strength in supporting and putting in the field our friends who are willing to go to the war all in one Regiment, commanded by officers who are their old friends and neighbors? We can render them a more united support after they have gone to the field, because our sympathies and interests will all be in one direction. The different towns and neighborhoods of this region, will be able to join an one united effort to advance their interests, because all will feel a common interest in the Regiment. We must not count the expense or the sacrifices that will be necessary. We should only contrive how we can do the most and in the best way to discharge our duty to the Government. Can we do more by isolated and individual efforts that we can by the united strength of the whole region, is the question. There seems to us to be one answer to the question. We have all proposed to do more than we have already done. Let us not prove recreant to that pledge, but let us continue to contribute of our means, and men, and show the world that we are earnest, sincere, and determined to sustain the best Government upon the face of the earth.

P.S. – Since writing, the above dispatch has been received from Washington, saying that the Secretary of War has authorized the acceptance of the Fox River

Regiment. All doubt on this question is now removed, and we appeal to our fellow citizens to take hold and help complete its speedy organization. Also, since the above was in type, a company has been tendered the Regiment from Lisbon, Kendall County. Roll on the ball.

*AB, 7-25-1861*

AN INDEPENDENT REGIMENT FORMING ON FOX RIVER

Geneva, Ill., July 18, 1861.

A meeting held in the Kane County Court House in Geneva July 10, 1861 regards to a call of the military men located on Fox River, to take into consideration the expediency of forming a Fox River Regiment, C. B. Wells was called to the chair and J. A. Scott appointed Clerk. Dr. Young stated the reasons for the call in some pertinent remarks about the discontent of the soldiers at Cairo. Capt. Joslyn was called on for a speech who was roundly cheered for his patriotic remarks. He said he was pledged to go back to the seventh, but said he believed a regiment could be formed and accepted immediately. Judge Barry than made a motion that a committee of five be appointed by the Chair to lay the foundation and basis for forming a Fox River Regiment, which was adopted; A. H. Barry, E. B. Baldwin, E. D. Swain, Dr. Young, Geo. Renwick.

The committee reported the following

*Resolved*, That in view of the present state of the country, we deem it necessary that a Fox River Regiment be formed out of men mustered in the great north-west and tendered for the war, and with this end in view, we appoint a committee of thirteen, who shall report at an adjourned meeting of this body on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> day of July next, as to whether the two companies can be obtained to join said regiment, which was adopted.

The following were appointed said committee: P. A. Walker, Dundee; W. B. Baldwin, Elgin; A. H. Barry, St. Charles; C. B. Wells, Geneva; A. Jenks, Aurora;

E. Kelly, Wheaton; A. B. Hall, Oswego; E. D. Swain, Batavia; Henry Willett, Bristol; Henry Smith, Burlington; J. D. Butts, DeKalb; E. B. Baldwin, Young America.

The meeting then adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock, July 29<sup>th</sup>, at the Court House in Geneva.

C. B. Wells, Ch'n  
J. A. Scott, Clerk.

*AB, 7-25-1861*

### THE FOX RIVER REGIMENT

Has been unconditionally accepted by SIMON CAMERON, the Secretary of War.

The dispatch bears date, Washington, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, and urges its immediate organization. The regiment is to be composed of eight companies of Infantry, one of Artillery and one company of Cavalry. Companies of Infantry will organize and enroll their companies as rapidly as possible and send in their muster rolls. The undersigned has opened a RECRUITING OFFICE for a Cavalry Company, and the enrollment of all who may wish to serve their country either as Infantry or Cavalry. As there is to be but one Cavalry Company in the Regiment, those who may wish to join that arm of the service will hand in their names immediately, as there are only one hundred chances, *and these will all be taken very soon*. Those who furnish their own horses, will receive \$16 per month for the use of the same, in addition to the monthly pay of the man.

Let no one stand in the way of the immediate organization of this regiment. The Government calls for men, and all are earnestly solicited to give it their earnest encouragement and support.

ALBERT JENKS, Com't' Fox River Reg't.

Head Quarters with J. D. Andrus, Main St. Aurora, July 24<sup>th</sup>,  
1861

*EG, 7-31-1861*

### FOX RIVER REGIMENT

This new regiment has been accepted by the War Department and referred to General Fremont for orders. It is proposed to have it consist of ten infantry

companies, two cavalry and an artillery company. Steps are being taken to have it officered and into camp right away.

*EG, 7-31-1861*

### ELGIN LIGHT GUARD

This company under Captain Tazewell, left for Chicago on Monday to go into camp with the Douglas Brigade, to which they are attached. The Union Greys escorted them to the cars in fine style.

*AB, 8-1-1861*

### IMPORTANT TO ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS

Army Auditor's Office  
Springfield, July 22, 1861.

The following forms and instructions have been prepared for the information of Illinois volunteers who may desire to authorize friends to receive their compensation. The observance of these forms and instructions is deemed essential to prevent frauds and secure payments to the proper persons.

Editor and Publishers willing to confer favors upon volunteers, will please give one or more insertions in their papers.

Wm. Thomas,  
Com'r for Auditing Army Accounts.

### POWER OF ATTORNEY.

State of Illinois, \_\_\_\_\_ County,

I, A. B., having served as private in company A., commanded by Capt. C. D., composing part of the \_\_\_\_\_ regiment of Illinois Volunteers, in the three months service, and being entitled to pay and allowance for said service do hereby authorize E. F. or his substitute, to receive from the officer authorized to pay the same, whatever I am entitled to in money on account of said service, and to sign and acknowledge the receipt required for the same.

Witness my hand and seal, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 1861.

## INSTRUCTIONS

Any number of men who served in the same company, regiment, and capacity, may join in executing the same Power of Attorney, their Christian and surnames being inserted in full, and the form being properly varied. If the volunteers claim for any other service, insert that, instead of “three months.” The acknowledgement may be made before a judge or clerk of any court of the United States, or of this State; a notary public, or justice of the peace, but when made before a justice of the peace, his official character, and the genuineness of his signature, must be verified by the certificate, under seal, of a clerk of a Court of Record.

If the officer taking the acknowledgement knows the fact of service, he can so certify without requiring further proof of identity, but if he does not, he will require the proof according to the form. Officers can not be too careful in regard to this point of identity. They should also insert, or sign, their given and surnames in full, without abbreviation.

The execution of Powers of Attorney, when not acknowledged, may be proven by the oath of a subscribing witness, before any of the above named officers; the certificate of proof, in such case, showing that the identity of the volunteer was also proven.

Paymasters of the United States Army will probably require the attorney in fact, to make affidavit “that the power was not given to him by reason of any sale or transfer of the pay,” referred to in the Power of Attorney.

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For The Three Years Volunteers. – It may not be generally known that those of our volunteers who enter the United States service for three years, will be entitled, at the termination of their term of enlistment to a bounty of one hundred dollars. In general orders number fifteen issued by the War Department, May 4<sup>th</sup>, the fact is distinctly set forth. The order provides as follows.

Every volunteer, non commissioned officer, private, musician and officer, who enters the service of the United States under this plan shall be paid at the rate of fifty cents; and if a cavalry volunteer, twenty five cents additional in lieu of forage, for every twenty miles travel from his home to the place of muster – the distance to be measured by the shortest usually traveled route – and when honorably discharged an allowance, at the same rate from the place of discharge to his home, and in addition thereto, the sum of one hundred dollars. Any volunteer who may be received into the service of the United States under this plan, and who may be wounded or otherwise disabled in the service, shall be entitled to the benefits, which have been or may be conferred on persons disabled in the service and the legal heir of such as die or may be killed in the service in addition to all

arrears of pay and allowances, shall receive the sum of one hundred dollars.

*AB, 8-1-1861*

## THE FOX RIVER REGIMENT MEETING AT THE COURT HOUSE, GENEVA

Pursuant to adjournment, parties interested in the formation of the Fox River Regiment met at the Court House in Geneva, on Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> inst. On motion of Geo. E. Corwin, Hon. I. G. Wilson was called to the Chair, and J. D. Harvey, Esq., was made Secretary. C. B. Wells Esq., at the request of the Chairman, stated the objects of the meeting. He referred to the meeting held two weeks ago, and said that the spirit then evinced plainly indicated that the Regiment would be a reality – that labor and not talk was to be the result of the efforts of those who engaged in its formation. The several gentlemen appointed as Committee on Organization made the statement following:

E. B. Chappel, on behalf of Capt. Baldwin, reports one company from Elgin of 72 men uniformed and ready.

Mr. C. B. Wells, of Geneva, reports one company from Freeport, ready in two days if desired – Henry G. Hecox, Capt.

Albert Jenks, of Aurora, reports one company of cavalry from Aurora now being formed, muster rolls being circulated, and will be filled if accepted. Also an Infantry company from the same place.

Capt. Jenks reported a company from Young America of 100 men, E. B. Baldwin, Capt. – will be ready with company as soon as desired.

One company from Newark of 88 men, represented by Capt. Olsen.

N. B. Paine, of Malta, Illinois, tendered one company of Infantry.

A. H. Barry, of St. Charles, tenders one company from Wayne, DuPage Co., known as the “Wayne Rifles,” John Q. Adams, Capt.

One company from Morris, Grundy Co., Capt. Parkhurst – will be ready on short notice.

E. Kelly, of Wheaton, DuPage Co., offers one company of Artillery.

A. B. Hall, of Oswego, tenders a company from Oswego, which can be formed on short notice.

Henry Willett, of Bristol had a company organized and ready, with 92 men – Capt. Hobbs.

On motion it was voted that a committee of five be appointed for the purpose of receiving reports from persons representing companies, and decide upon the companies to be accepted in the Fox River Regiment.

The following were appointed as such committee.

C. B. Wells, Geneva; W. H. Clark, Bristol; D. W. Young, Aurora; A. B. Hall, Oswego; E. S. Chappel, Elgin.

And upon motion the following gentlemen were added to the committee. H. Barry, St. Charles; David Gillett, Batavia; Dr. Pierce, Lisbon; W. B. Plato, Geneva.

During the absence of the committee, the Hon. J. F. Farnsworth addressed the meeting upon the events of the day. He spoke of the necessity of forming the regiment and recommended its speedy organization.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE

1.	Elgin Company	Uniformed	Capt. Baldwin
2.	Aurora		“ Miller
3.	Newark	88 men	“ Olson
4.	Wayne		“ Adams
5.	Morris		“ Parkhurst
6.	Wheaton Artillery		“ Kelly
7.	Bristol	92 men	“ Hobbs
8.	Young America	in full	“ Baldwin
9.	Lisbon	94	“ Pierce
10.	Aurora Cavalry		“ Jenks
11.	Oswego		“ Hall
12.	Freeport		“ Hicks

*Resolved*, That Capt. Lewis company of cavalry of Plato, be pressed upon the U. S. authorities for acceptance and attached to the regiment.

*Resolved*, That each company be requested to build up their muster rolls to 101 men.

*Resolved*, That Major Greusel and Capt. Joslyn be appointed a committee to proceed to St. Louis and tender the regiment to General Fremont as per instructions from the War Department.

*Resolved*, That the Captains of companies be requested to fill their muster rolls within ten days, and report ready for orders.

*Resolved*, That the proceedings of the meeting be published in the Chicago papers, and also in the county papers of Kane and Kendall counties.

L. G. Wilson, Ch'n  
J. D. Harvey, Sec'y

## CAVALRY

The only cavalry company to be connected with the Fox River Regiment, is recruiting at Aurora. We shall probably be ordered into quarters in a few days. The advantages in the way of pay are set forth in another part of this paper.

Albert Jenks

*AB, 8-1-1861*

## RETURNED HOME.

The most of the members of the first company that went from this place to the war, have returned home, their term of enlistment having expired. A majority of the Elgin company have also returned. These men deserve the thanks of our citizens for the service they have rendered their country, and the fact that they have not been in an engagement is not to be charged to them. They did their duty when the country called, and with patriotic wills and intentions have been ready to sacrifice their lives for the preservation of our liberties. All honor to our brave three month's volunteers. They have received the thanks of Congress and the gratitude of the people, the highest honor that can be conferred upon them. Many of them after enjoying a short recreation, we are informed, intend to re-enlist and do still more service in the cause of their country. History will do them justice.

We can hardly stop at present to consider the magnitude of the debt we owe them, for each day is big with events and the deeds of yesterday are lost sight of, in a measure, in the events of to-day. God and their country will bless them for the three month's volunteers have been the salvation of the republic.

*AB, 8-8-1861*

## GLORIOUS NEWS !

THE FOX RIVER REGIMENT ORDERED INTO CAMP AT AURORA AS  
SOON AS POSSIBLE

THE REGIMENT TO BE GENERAL FREEMONT'S BODY GUARD  
Orders for Camp Equipage, Clothing, Arms, Subsistence and Transportation, have  
been issued by Gen. Fremont

THE LOCATION OF THE CAMP SELECTED  
THE NAME TO BE CAMP HAMMOND

## The Elgin, Young America and other Companies to go into Camp Immediately

From St. Louis we have the cheering intelligence that the Fox River Regiment is ordered into camp immediately and that after proper drill and preparation they are to go to Missouri and form the body guard of General Fremont.

The regiment to be armed with breech loading rifles and breech loading carbines. The order has been issued to the Colonel commanding, for camp equipage, subsistence, transportation, uniforms, and all the necessary equipments for the protection of the Regiment.

The camping ground has been selected in the beautiful grove between Aurora and Montgomery. There is a large spring, good shade and a fine open ground for company and battalion drill.

The Elgin Young America, and other companies will be ordered into camp immediately.

We are sorry to learn that the artillery company is thrown out of the regiment. Gen. Fremont has decided that this arm of the service is to be filled by regulars, under the immediate charge of regular army officers. The regiment will be composed of ten companies of Infantry and two companies of Cavalry.

This we consider a glorious result. It now becomes the duty of every man in this region to put his shoulder to the wheel, and help make the Fox River Regiment the best that Illinois can produce. It can be done. Shall we do it?

*AB, 8-8-1861*

The Members of Company "C." – On Monday evening, about fifty of the returned members of Company C, met at the City Hall, for the purpose of drill and keeping alive the fraternal feeling that has grown up among them, during their campaign of the last three months. With such guns as could be collected in the city, they responded to the command of Lieutenant Miller, to "fall in." After going through the various company movements and the manual of arms, they started for a march about the city. Hundreds of our citizens crowded the sidewalks to witness their proficient and almost perfect movements.

AB, 8-8-1861

WAR, WAR, WAR.

THE FOX RIVER REGIMENT ACCEPTED, AND ORDERED INTO CAMP AT  
AURORA

This splendid regiment composed entirely of our own friends and neighbors in this valley has been accepted by Freemont, and is to be composed of ten companies of Infantry, and two of Cavalry; in all, 1200 men.

All those wishing to join the Aurora Dragoons, will present themselves at Aurora during the present week. Each man has the privilege of furnishing his own horse, for which he received fifty cents per day, from the Government: those who cannot do so, will be furnished at Aurora.

It is very desirable that as many men should furnish their own horses as possible. It will be a good investment of money; the horse will draw from the Government \$182.50 a year, forage and accoutrements furnished.

Remember that the regiment is a reality, and will certainly go to the war, and will form a portion of General John C. Freemont's Grand Army to the Balize, *and compose his body guard.*

Recruiting office in Masonic Block, Main Street, Aurora.

Albert Jenks,  
Recruiting Officer.

Although first organized in Geneva, the 36<sup>th</sup> went into camp south of Aurora, in the little village of Montgomery. It was called "Camp Hammond", after the man who was then President of the CB & Q Railroad, which had donated the use of its grounds. These grounds were by the railroad track which, then as now, went through Montgomery to Aurora. This made it easy to supply the camp and move the men by rail, for the Civil War would be the first real railroad war. There remains no indication of a military camp on the site. Years later it became notable as the site of the Montgomery sheep pens.

*AB, 8-8-1861*

REGIMENTAL ORDERS.

Head Quarters Fox River Regiment,  
Camp Hammond, Aurora, Aug. 7, 61

General Order No. 1

This camp shall be known and designated as Camp Hammond.

No. 2

Captains will hold their respective companies together, ready for marching to camp, on receipt of orders for transportation.

No. 3

Geo. A. Willis is hereby appointed temporary Acting Adjutant for the Fox River Regiment.

No. 4

I. N. Buck of Elgin, is hereby appointed temporary Acting Quartermaster of the Fox River Regiment.

No. 5

Captains of companies will report to head quarters personally, in order to ascertain the number of men on their respective muster rolls, as early as Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, to complete the organization of the regiment.

N. Greusel, Col. Commanding.  
G. A. Willis, Acting Adjutant.

*WS, 8-14-1861*

A NEW COMPANY. – A meeting of the members of the Woodstock Rifles was held at the Court House, on Saturday evening last. It was stated, that it was probable that if the company was filled up and offered by the middle of September, it would find a place in the Fox River Regiment, now forming. A roll was opened for the signatures of those who wish to enlist for the war, which received there and since some twenty signatures. Those who wish to serve their country, now have an opportunity to join a company that is in earnest, and going to the war.

*WS, 8-14-1861*

SOLDIER'S LETTERS. – The Postmaster General has issued an order that letters written by soldiers in the service of the government shall be forwarded in the mails without prepayment of postage. But the following conditions must be observed: The letter should bear on its face the endorsement "Soldier's Letter," signed by the Major or acting Major of the regiment to which the writer is attached, describing the regiment by its number and its State. The postage due on such letters will be collected at the office of delivery.

*EG, 8-14-1861*

### FOX RIVER REGIMENT

The organization of this regiment has been pushed forward with amazing energy. It is accepted and ordered into camp temporarily at Aurora. Recruiting is going on briskly, and it is thought all the companies accepted will soon be full. The camp is called Camp Hammond, in honor of Col. Hammond of the Burlington road.

The officers met on Monday and chose N. Greusel, Col., and E. S. Joslyn Lieut. Col. The strong possibility is that Capt. A. H. Barry, of St. Charles, will be chosen Major. Barry is a gentleman of fine abilities, and every inch a soldier. We hope he may receive the appointment. Mr. Willis, of Aurora, is acting Adjutant. I. N. Buck of this place, is appointed Quartermaster, having declined the same position in the 7<sup>th</sup> Illinois to accept it in this. Dr. Young has also declined the office of surgeon of the cavalry regiment, of which Capt. Dodson's company is a member, that he may fill that important post in this. So it will be seen that our regiment does not have to pick up cast off men for its officers. The Woodstock Rifles, Capt. M. L. Joslyn, takes the place of the Freeport Company. This brings the regiment more strictly into the Fox River Valley. Captain Joslyn is brother to the Col. and brother in law to Capt. Baldwin of the Elgin Greys

These companies are ordered into camp next Tuesday. The great question, therefore, now is who will go? The voice of God is sounding in every man's ears, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve." Without more men our cause cannot succeed. The Elgin Greys are No. 1 in the estimation of the public, and we don't want them disgraced by going into camp with less than full ranks. Come, boys, never care of that who cannot or will not go to the field of glory. We keep a muster roll on our desk, which is fast receiving the names of the old Continentals

who have returned from Cairo, and others who are anxious to emulate their fame. We want this to be the crack company of the crack regiment. One of Fremont's aids has evinced so much partiality for this regiment, and has furnished such splendid equipments, that it is surmised that they are to have the honor of guarding the person of the great General of the Western Division. Let us have a regiment worthy of the honor.

*WS, 8-21-1861*

### OFF FOR THE WARS

The "Woodstock Rifles," Capt. M. L. Joslyn, will speedily be in active service. A vigorous effort to fill up its ranks has been made during the last two days, which has proved very successful, some 60 names having been added to its muster roll, and about 20 others, living in the south part of the county, will join the company when it arrives at Crystal Lake station.

The company will leave this place at precisely five o'clock on Friday morning next, and proceed to Crystal Lake with teams, where they will take the Fox River R. R. for Aurora, at which place the Fox River Regiment, of which this is a part, is to be encamped.

As the company is not quite full, those who are anxious to serve their country in this hour of extreme peril, and wish to see active service immediately, have a good opportunity of so doing.

Though this company has had little or no opportunity for drilling, we feel confident that, with a little training, it will soon attain proficiency, and give a good account of itself. We shall note with interest, and we hope, with pleasure, the adventures and travels of the "Woodstock Rifles." When the company shall have been organized and mustered in, we shall publish its muster roll.

*EG, 8-21-1861*

### WAR MEETINGS GREAT MEETING IN ELGIN DAVIDSON'S HALL OVERFLOWING

Speeches by Col. E. S. Joslyn, Major A. H. Barry and Hon. A. C. Herrington

## TREMENDOUS EXCITEMENT OUR COMPANY FILLING UP

We think it can be safely said that this town was never more fully aroused than at the war meeting on Friday night last. The proceedings will be found in another column, but the spirit of the meeting cannot be transferred to paper.

The speech of Col. Joslyn was characteristic, and yet the most powerful one ever heard from him. It thrilled through the vast audience like a gun shot, and stirred the passions like the tone of the trumpet on the field of battle. Men all over the hall trembled with excitement. There was an occasional side thrust that relieved the feelings by an outburst of laughter and applause, but still the awful conviction was wrought in every mind, that the country was in a dire extremity, and every man should gird himself for the conflict.

As soon as he had completed his remarks a number of our best men, young and old, crowded forward and enrolled their names. When Leonard Mann, Harpending, Beman Adams and others of that class came forward the hall was wild with excitement. The speeches of Barry and Herrington were excellent, and kept up the interest to the last. The position of Mr. Barry, that all our real estate was endangered and the title rendered void by a revolution was startling and yet seen to be true. The irony of Herrington who proposed to enlist when the office seekers around the Court House did, was fine. Altogether the meeting, though it was too sharp for some, aroused the spirit of the people in this vicinity in a most wonderful manner. The Elgin Greys have received constant accessions since, and now number about 90. We must not forget to mention that at about half past ten the rotund form of E. Vining was seen pushing toward the stand, and he announced that after nine that night two young men came to him and said they must come to Elgin and sign the muster roll at once. He tackled his horse and drove them to the meeting, and now presented them to the Captain. Cheer after cheer went up for Vining and the boys.

*EG, 8-21-1861*

### FOX RIVER REGIMENT

This new and favorite regiment is now in camp near Aurora. Last week the

company from Young America, 80 strong, took possession of their tents; on Monday of this week five companies arrived, nearly all of them full. Col. Greusel and other officers were present to superintend companies. Quartermaster Buck was ready for them and commenced dealing out the rations. The company from the town of Wayne, 7 miles below here, was filled up to fifty or more, and took their places with the rest, nothing daunted by the prophecies against them, they are bound to succeed.

On Tuesday the Elgin Greys left here on the Fox River train. On the previous evening hundreds had assembled to bid them farewell. Speaking from the steps of the bank building was continued for some time. Capt. Baldwin explained his position and feelings in a few words, which evidently came from the heart and reached the hearts of the people. Rev. Mr. Thomas poured out his feelings in a fervid and eloquent speech which was exceedingly well received. Col. E. S. Joslyn also addressed the crowd in his usual earnest manner.

In the morning at an early hour the streets were thronged. The muskets of the old Continentals were brought out for temporary use, the equipments of the regiment not having arrived yet. At the request of Quartermaster Buck, Capt. Renwick permitted the company to take the cannon whose roar has so often stirred the patriotism of the people of Elgin. It is needed for firing salutes. A car load of recruits came down the road, so that the "Greys" found their ranks full to overflowing. We are not afraid of their suffering in comparison with any other company.

About noon the Plato Cavalry, Capt. Lewis arrived in our town, and were quartered at the hotels. A splendid military band accompanied them to this place. The equipments of the horses were at B. Healy's. About fifty saddles were given out, and at 4 p.m. the troop started for camp, expecting to spend the night at St. Charles.

The Woodstock Rifles, Capt. M. L. Joslyn, will go into camp on Friday, by which time the regiment will be complete, and the balance of the regimental officers be elected.

By all accounts, life at Camp Hammond was quite pleasant. Greusel rigorously enforced a ban against alcoholic beverages, but the men were free to pass their time in various games and sports; and they had an excellent military band and glee club to provide them with music. Patriotic ladies from all over the valley were allowed to visit the camp, bringing with them their choicest culinary creations. It was one long summer picnic.

But, despite the pleasant atmosphere, Colonel Greusel never lost sight of military discipline. At first the men scattered their tents “as if shot out of a siege gun or pitched together with a hay fork”, but the Colonel had them re-arranged in regular rows with neat company streets. He instituted a daily “police call” in which every spare chicken bone and tobacco quid was swept from the streets.

The Colonel also understood the uses of competition in building morale. The men had joined up together in little groups from their local communities, there was one whole company from Newark and another from Elgin. There were the Oswego Rifles and the Wayne Rifles too. Greusel had these units compete against each other on the parade ground to see who could drill the best.

*AB, 8-22-1861*

FROM CAMP HAMMOND

Wednesday, August 21, 1861.

Dear Beacon; -- Things are rapidly assuming a military aspect, at Camp Hammond. Several companies are already on the ground, and more are expected today. The camp ground, which a few days ago, was covered with waving grain, now presents the spectacle of troops marching and counter marching; some busily engaged in putting up tents, cooking their rations, and attending to the various duties of camp life, while the air resounds with martial music, making a decided change from its quiet of a few days ago.

The companies now present are the Young America, Bristol Light Infantry, Elgin Greys, Lisbon Rifles, Morris Guards. The Oswego and Wayne companies, are also here, partly full.

Our style of living is, as yet, rather primitive, there not being a sufficient supply of camp equipage; but the boys submit to the inconvenience, without a murmur, indeed, they seem to enjoy it hugely. The rations are of good quality, and we all get enough. Quartermaster Buck, seems determined that the boys shall have plenty to eat.

The battalion was formed at 6 o'clock last evening, for the first dress parade, making a fine appearance. Col. Greusel made a short address to the officers; telling them that he intended to make the Fox River Regiment the best one that has left the State; and if the men now in camp are fair specimens of the whole, he has excellent material to work upon.

You must excuse this short epistle, as your correspondent has been for two hours drilling in the “awkward squad,” and can think of nothing else but “forward march, mark time, eyes right and halt.” I will try to do better next week.

Yours, C.

WS, 8-28-1861

THE WOODSTOCK RIFLES AT AURORA  
FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Camp Hammond, Aurora, Ill.,  
Monday, Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>, 1861

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL:

Coming from various parts of the county, the Woodstock Rifles met at the Crystal Lake depot of the Fox River R.R., en route for the camp at Aurora, there to pass a few days in drilling, and thence to march for the seat of war in Missouri. There at the station were met together many of the friends and relatives of those volunteers who were leaving business and associations to encounter the perils of war, and the hardships of military life, in defence of our national government. We listened to the encouraging words of those who bade us God speed, and heard the patriotic speeches of Mr. Donnelly, Judge Murphy, Lyon, and last, but not least, our Captain, Judge Joslyn.

The train appeared and after a parting blessing by Elder Burlingame, away we whirled amid the cheers of those remaining. Through Algonquin and Dundee, we arrived at Elgin, where with praiseworthy promptness and intentions, we were instantly surrounded by the beautiful maidens of Elgin, who armed with cups of most excellent coffee, with cakes, and buns and crackers, made repeated and continued onslaughts upon our weary company. Although repeatedly disarmed, still they returned to the attack, and not till the train was in motion, did we cease to drink the coffee and eat the cakes. Long will we remember Elgin, and "the girls we left behind us."

Thence to the Galena Junction, where we took the train on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R.R., and a little before 11 o'clock arrived at Aurora, where by the Captain's orders we marched to the Aurora House, and as we took the landlord by surprise, we had rather a poor dinner. Here we stopped to supper and breakfast, and the fare was much improved. At night we took up our quarters in the loft of a barn, and might have slept very well on the hay, but the noise and hilarity of the boys allowed little sleep, and the jollity was kept up till a late hour. Then on the train we proceeded to the camp, which is situated about one and a half miles south west of the city, and is very pleasantly situated on a hill, at the foot of which is a beautiful spring, which furnishes an ample supply of good water. At the camp we found plenty of tents, with double roofs, and made of the very best of

material. They make comfortable houses, and are impervious to rain.

Each man has a tin plate and cup, and a knife and fork. We have plenty of kettles, coffee pots and frying pans, and our rations, though not luxurious, are abundant. We expect to have our uniforms soon, and are daily looking for our Austrian rifles, with their sword bayonets. We expect to be the best uniformed and best armed regiment in the State, and it will consist of two companies of Infantry (artillery) and two of Cavalry. Our rations consist of fresh beef, bread, beans, potatoes, sugar, vinegar, coffee, candles, soap, salt, and pepper. Adjoining the camp is a corn field, from which the boys get numerous ears of corn.

About 900 men are now on the ground, or absent on furlough. Our own company is not yet full, but we expect it will be when the Judge gets back from Woodstock, where he is going in a day or two.

Our company has been sworn in, but we do not expect to march before the 10<sup>th</sup> of September.

At the company election the following officers were chosen: M. L. Joslyn, Capt., A. H. Sellers, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. The non-commissioned officers will be appointed by the Captain.

Enough for the present, and I will be more brief in my next.

H.

P.S. All letters should be addressed to Camp Hammond, near Aurora, care of Capt. Joslyn. We are abundantly supplied with all provisions, except butter and cheese, which we hope to obtain from the kind friends at home.

H.

*EG, 8-28-1861*

### EXCURSION TO CAMP HAMMOND

We understand that the Baptist Sunday School in this city, have decided to visit the camp of the Fox River Regiment next Tuesday. They will leave here on the 8:45 a.m. train and return at 6 p.m. Tickets for the round trip 75 cts, children 25cts, to be had at McGuire, Cornell & Co,'s and at Parker's. It is desirable that all who propose to go should purchase tickets immediately so that the committee may know how many cars to furnish.

Capt. Baldwin proposes to send his boys to the grove near by and obtain

boughs for an awning for the table, and the splendid tents of the “Greys” will be placed at the disposal of the picnic party. A good time is confidently anticipated.

*WS, 8-28-1861*

### WOODSTOCK RIFLES

On Friday morning last, the second company started from Woodstock, for the wars. At three o'clock, the citizens were aroused from their slumbers by the voice of the six pounder, which is the glory of Woodstock, and at five o'clock the “Woodstock Rifles,” M. L. Joslyn, Capt., bid adieu to Woodstock. They started from the Exchange Hotel in teams, for Crystal Lake.

Owing to the unseasonable hour, their departure was not celebrated with such *furor* as when the “Light Guards” left us, but they, nevertheless, left quite as many well wishers behind.

Quite a number of citizens accompanied them to Crystal Lake, and it being over an hour to car time, in response to calls, sympathetic and able speeches were made by Asa W. Smith, Neill Donnelly, and T. D. Murphy, of this place, after which Capt. Joslyn made a feeling, humorous and touching farewell address to the people of the county, in which he has lived for twenty three years.

When he closed, the cars came, and all bid farewell to McHenry County. Speed the gallant boys! May fortune ever smile on them.

*AB, 8-29-1861*

### THE FOX RIVER REGIMENT

Since Monday our city has been all astir and excitement with the arrival of companies, and interest in the success of the affairs of the Fox River Regiment. There are eleven companies now in camp. One from Young America, Warren County; one from Bristol, one from Newark, one from Lisbon and one from Oswego, Kendall County; The Morris Guards from Grundy County, The Wayne Rifles from DuPage County, The Elgin Company, The Aurora City Guards; and

Plato Dragoons and Aurora Dragoons.

These Companies are all full, or have positive assurance of having them filled within a few days. There is a little delay in filling up some of the companies, for the reason that a good many of the men who have enlisted, are engaged in finishing up the work in the harvest field, and cannot go into camp for a few days. Quartermaster Webb, of the U.S.A., was here on Tuesday, and administered the oath to about seven hundred of the men. He will return in the course of a few days and complete the organization of the regiment. A few men will be taken into the regiment yet, and all those who intend to enlist for the war had better do so now, while an opportunity is offered in a home regiment.

The horses for the Dragoons will be bought in a few days. The saddles and accouterments are now at the depot. Requisitions for uniforms and other clothing and arms have been sent forward, and it is confidently expected that they will be here in from ten to fifteen days.

Here let us say to the men who are now in camp and who are to compose this regiment; Be not impatient with your officers if matters do not go exactly to suit your notions. Do not find fault unless there is a good reason for so doing, and discourage all things that will tend to create dissensions and strife among you. You are green hands in a new business – officers as well as men, and it will be strange if mistakes are not made, and possibly, injustice done to the hearts and feelings of many of you. Unworthy men will be elected, or appointed to office, and worthy men will be thrust aside. But remember, that in most cases these are the result of accident and can in time be remedied – and that too, much better by patient acquiescence and endurance, than by mutiny and insubordination. If your superior officers lie to you, (as is said to be the case *sometimes*, in military camps,) or practice any deception, or dishonorable act, remember that their own destruction and disgrace is sure to come, and that grief and sorrow will come to their hearts in a certain “good time coming.” Learn to obey and wait if for no other consideration, do it for the sake of the glorious cause you have sworn to defend.

*AB, 8-29-1861*

## THE REGIMENT

Considering all things, affairs at Camp Hammond are moving off finely. Over one hundred tents are now pitched, and the occupants are beginning to get the hang of their new homes and occupations. The Quartermaster is doing all in his power to gather around him the necessaries for the regiment, and each day is

bringing harmony and order out of chaos and confusion.

Col. Greusel seems untiringly devoted to the welfare of his men – caring more for efficient preparation for the serious work before them, than all else. He has an immense amount of work to perform, and taking all matters into account, we feel that the regiment and country have cause of congratulation in securing his services. Especially have we cause to be thankful for the ready interest manifested by the “Union Defense Committee,” of Chicago, who have by the direction of General Freemont, taken charge of the equipment of the regiment. They have responded to every requisition made by the Col. and Quartermaster, and exhibited an alacrity and willingness that is really commendable.

The blankets of the regiment have not yet arrived, though expected every day. Our citizens should furnish the men with these, until those ordered arrive. One hundred old blankets and quilts would add much to the comfort of the camp during these cold nights. Many of the men have no covering when they lay down, and they really suffer for the want of something to keep them from catching cold. There is not a house in this vicinity, but what can spare at least one blanket for a few days. They will be returned as soon as those sent for arrive. Let every man and woman, then, who visits the camp, take with them a blanket and give it to some soldier. The Woodstock company are, perhaps, more destitute of these than any other, being the last that came into camp, though others are equally destitute. Fifteen hundred men and women will read our paper before evening today. Will not those who read this come to the rescue?

Many of you are thinking that those volunteers do not realize what they have yet to do and suffer. In this you are mistaken. Go among them and you will find that they are alive to the condition of their country, and that with brave hearts they are willing to sacrifice all that is dear to them, that peace and prosperity may again be established in the land.

Cheer them on, then, by kindly sympathy and generous donations, and make them feel that your hearts are with them.

*AB, 8-29-1861*

FROM CAMP HAMMOND No. 2

Wednesday, Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1861

Dear Beacon; -- Things are moving on smoothly at the camp. All the companies are now on the ground, and will probably be filled in a short time. Col. Greusel is indefatigable in bringing order out of chaos, and the company officers

are seconding his efforts. At the regimental election for Major, on Saturday, A. H. Barry, Esg., of St. Charles, received a large majority of the votes cast, and was elected. The Major is well liked by both officers and men, and will no doubt make a popular and efficient officer. We do not see much of our Lieut. Col. Joslyn, he being the most of the time absent on business connected with the regiment. It would make you laugh to see the "officers drill." The "awkward squad" of the poorest drilled company on the ground is not a comparison. There are but very few on the sick list, and as far as I can learn none dangerous. The boys are very impatient to get their uniforms and arms. Our "dress parades" are attended by large crowds from the city and the adjoining country, many coming from ten to fifteen miles for that purpose. There is no end to the luxuries with which the friends of the soldiers supply them. We have many curious episodes to vary the dull monotony of camp life. The other day I saw a little short legged commissioned officer of one of the companies jump the fence, with a tall Hibernian guard after him, with his bayonet in close proximity to his coat tails. The little fellow made good time, while the gentleman from the green isle fired after him a choice volley of epithets which the little commissioned did not stop to return. I could not learn what aroused the ire of the sentinel. The orders are not to let anyone into camp after 9 o'clock with out the countersign, and the guards are generally pretty sharp, and but few succeed in getting by them. Your correspondent was out the other night, with the countersign, and attempted to pass in the captain of one of the companies, but it was no go, he had to come to limerick. The drums are beating for "squad mounting" and as I am on duty for the day, I must close.

C.

*AB, 8-29-1861*

#### NAMES OF OFFICERS AND PRIVATES OF THE FOX RIVER REGIMENT

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##### OFFICERS

Colonel,	N. Greusel
Lieutenant Colonel,	E. S. Joslyn
Major,	Alonzo H. Barry
Adjutant,	George H. Willis
Surgeon,	D. W. Young
Assistant Surgeon,	S. B. Hanley

Quartermaster, I. N. Buck  
 Quartermaster's Sergeant, A. A. Keys  
 Sergeant Major, F. A. Raymond  
 Hospital Steward, Chas. M. Harvey

#### OFFICERS OF CAVALRY

Captain, Albert Jenks A, Aurora Dragoons  
 First Lieutenant, S. B. Sherer  
 Second " Geo. B. Willis  
 Captain, George W. Lewis B, Plato Dragoons  
 First Lieutenant, Henry A. Smith  
 Second " Samuel Chapman

#### OFFICERS OF INFANTRY

Captain, Silas Miller B, Aurora Guards  
 First Lieutenant, Joseph M. Walker  
 Second " Frank Campbell  
 Captain, M. B. Baldwin A, Elgin Greys  
 First Lieutenant, E. S. Chappell  
 Second " I. N. Buck  
 Captain, E. B. Baldwin C, Young America  
 First Lieutenant, James McNeal  
 Second " John Trumbull  
 Captain, Charles D. Fish E, Bristol Light  
 Infantry  
 First Lieutenant, Albert M. Hobbs  
 Second " Wm. H. Clark  
 Captain, Porter C. Olson F, Newark Rifles  
 First Lieutenant, George Stonax  
 Second " Martin Wilson  
 Captain, I. N. Parkhurst G, Morris Guards  
 First Lieutenant, Abel Longworth  
 Second " Robert Dewey  
 Captain, John Q. Adams K, Wayne Rifles  
 First Lieutenant, James Foley  
 Second " Mathew J. Hammond  
 Captain, S. C. Camp I, Oswego Rifles  
 First Lieutenant, Wm. Walker  
 Second " Wm. Sutherland  
 Captain, Wm. P. Pierce D, Lisbon Rifles

First Lieutenant,	Jack Van Pelt	
Second “	Geo. Parker	
Captain,	M. L. Joslyn	H, Woodstock Rifles
First Lieutenant,		
Second “		

#### YOUNG AMERICA GUARDS

Captain,	E. B. Baldwin
First Lieutenant,	Jas. B. McNeal
Second “	Jno. M. Turnbull
Orderly Sergeant,	Jacob Sands
Second “	John A. Porter
Third “	E. A. Crawford
Fourth “	Scott Brownlee
Fifth “	David S. Irvin
First Corporal,	Wm. M. Gibson
Second “	J. I. Wilon
Third “	J. A. Pearce
Fourth “	J. M. Pollock
Fifth “	William Ward
Sixth “	Wm. Kingsland
Fifer,	J. L. Dryden
Drummer,	Jos. Young

The names of the officers and men of other companies will be given next week. Any error in the list published above, will be corrected in our next paper, if notice is received in time.

Note; privates from all companies have been omitted as “The Beacon” failed to post all companies over the future weeks as promised. A detailed list can be obtained in “History of the Thirty-Sixth Regiment Illinois Volunteers, During the War of the Rebellion”, by L. G. Bennett and William M. Haigh, 1876., or “The Illinois Adjutant Generals Report”

AB, 8-29-1861

A CARD

Camp Hammond, Aug. 26, 1861

Among strangers and in a strange land, yet in the midst of *friends*.

The Young America Guards – Captain E. B. Baldwin, gratefully acknowledge the receipt of a hundred pillow slips from the good ladies of Aurora, for which heartfelt thanks are returned. Also to the ladies of Bristol they return thanks, for their pic-nic entertainment on the 24<sup>th</sup> inst.

J. Sands, O. S.

AB, 8-29-1861

From the *Grundy Herald*

The Morris Guards, Capt. Parkhurst are at Camp Hammond. The Grundy Herald gives the following account of their departure from home: Arriving at the depot the company was drawn up in order, where a magnificent sword was presented to Captain Parkhurst, by Judge Harris, on behalf of our citizens, which was accepted by the Captain in short but feeling response. Then came the most trying moment to the men – bidding adieu to relatives and friends. We witnessed many affecting scenes, which we shall long remember. The train was soon announced, and leave taking at an end, and the boys went off in excellent spirits. We feel assured that they will give a good report of themselves when called into active duty; and wherever they may be placed, the prayers and good wishes of our entire population will follow them. God bless, protect, and shield in battle, the noble boys who compose the “Morris Guards.” We shall publish in our next issue, the muster roll of the company, if forwarded to us in time.

AB, 8-29-1861

All able bodied men in the State over 18 and under 45 years of age, will soon be required to perform military duty under the law of the last Legislature. From this list, drafts will be made for service during the war, should the war

continue and volunteer enlistment fall. We apprehend, however, that this system will be first resorted to in the New England States, to place them on an equal footing with the West. If the States in the Union should all furnish volunteers in numbers proportionate to Lee and the other northern counties of this State, taking their population as a basis, there would at once be an army in the field of about 800,000 troops – sufficient, if properly armed and equipped, to retake all the stolen property in the South, and place the Government and Government property in a safe position.

*WS, 9-4-1861*

THE WOODSTOCK RIFLES AT AURORA  
FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Camp Hammond, Aurora, Ill.,  
Monday, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1861

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL:

More than a week has passed away since we arrived in camp, and our health remains good, save a few slight cases of diarrhea. As yet our uniforms are as invisible as at first, and though now and then the idle rumor “that they are on hand,” floats through the camp, yet time proves that it is without foundation. We do expect to receive them ere we leave, but our arms will probably be furnished from the St. Louis Arsenal, when we reach that place. The weather has been fine, but the ground very dusty for drilling. A slight rain yesterday has much abated the nuisance, and hereafter we hope to be less pestered by clouds of dust.

Though the life of a soldier is new to most of our men, yet they are making good progress in drill, and yield readily to discipline, and if the company was full, and none absent on furlough, we should become proficient in a short time. We labor under quite a disadvantage, owing to the want of non-commissioned officers, of which we have none, save those temporarily appointed, who cannot be expected fully to discharge duties so various and novel to them, but all these things will be speedily remedied when our Captain returns.

As yet the discipline enforced at the camp is not strict, but there are evident signs that the ropes will soon be tightened. We are allowed free range in and out of the camp, but must be present at roll call, which occurs at 5 ½ a.m. and 8 ½ p.m. The routine of duty, else than guard mounting, consists of a morning drill of 1 ½ hours, company drill at 4 p.m., and dress parade at sunset. Devine services are held in camp each Sabbath.

Our boys are in fine spirits, and fierce for war. They are excellent guards as was well demonstrated the other day by one who bayoneted an obstinate spectator for refusing to comply with the rules of camp. Myron warned him, and the warning was unheeded; he charged, a red spot appeared, and the enemy fled. Thus

the first blood was drawn by the Woodstock Rifles. All honor to the gallant corps!

Ours is a favorite company, and quite often do our field officers appear at our table. Of Colonel Greusel, pronounced Grisel, I only know that he has seen service in Mexico, and was a Major at Cairo. For the Lieut. Col. nothing need be said but that he is Ed. S. Joslyn, of Elgin, formerly Captain of the Elgin Grays. Major Barry, of St. Charles, has won the esteem of all by his gentlemanly bearing and affable demeanor. He is keenly alive to a joke, and enjoys the fun hugely. Only the other day, as he, then quite a stranger, and intending to sup with us, was washing his hands, one of our boys, attracted by his dignified appearance, demanded, "To what company do you belong?" With a sly twinkle in his eye, the Major replied, "To the Woodstock Rifles," and our youth looked with pleasure upon the manly form of a new recruit.

It is currently reported that we are to march soon after the 10<sup>th</sup> inst., and I regard it as very probable. At all events, after that time we shall be subject to marching orders, and in view of the state of affairs in Missouri, will probably leave camp on short notice.

Yours Very Truly, H.

*AB, 9-5-1861*

Accident in camp. Lieut. McNeil, of Capt. Baldwin's Young America Company, had his shoulder broken while wrestling on Tuesday. It was immediately attended to by the surgeons, and is now doing well, though the Lieutenant will be laid up for a few weeks and lose much valuable experience.

*AB, 9-5-1861*

#### LETTER FROM DR. YOUNG

Mr. Editor: -- Having been kindly invited by the patriotic ladies of Aurora, to attend one of their meetings, I learned that there were many and conflicting notions and directions as to what they had better procure and prepare for the soldiers. In order to have the matter well understood I desire to give a few general directions through your paper.

In the first place we want plenty of good strong clean bandages. These bandages should be from two to four inches wide, well sewed together and from three to ten yards long. They should be well and securely sewed and then carefully rolled, each length by itself, so that they can be packed and ready for use at any moment. We also want a large supply of old linen and cotton clothes, to use about the sick, and wounded, if necessary. These cloths are absolutely necessary, and we

will receive them most thankfully, no matter how large or how small, or how old. I would not advise the expenditure of any money in flannel body bandages; the government provides the soldiers with plenty of woolen shirts and drawers. Ladies, give us plenty of good bandages and cloths and we will take good care of your sons and friends. I look upon the above named things as very important, and hope that the kind ladies of Aurora and vicinity will remember that the noble band of men in camp Hammond have volunteered, and are willing to peril their lives in behalf of their homes and liberties. Shall they be liberally supplied with everything that can make them comfortable when sick? I have named the above things as absolutely necessary, but will add that we will also thankfully receive anything that can add to the comfort of sick men. If you have any woolen blankets, sheets, or good towels, bring them along. I would advise the ladies to prepare their bandages at home and bring them to Brady's Hall on next Saturday afternoon, when I will be there and receive their donations. I hope I shall see all the ladies of Aurora and vicinity there, and that each one will bring both a roll or two of bandages and a good supply of old linen and cotton clothes.

Respectfully,

D. W. Young.

*AB, 9-5-1861*

Camp Hammond, Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>, 1861

Dear Beacon, -- Last night Capt. Jenks informed the Aurora Dragoons that on the morrow, they might expect that a dinner would be furnished them by the ladies; and he very sensibly suggested to them that they should fast until the next morn. His advice, however, was unheeded, and it was not until we had satisfied our appetites and beheld the quantities of provisions yet untasted, that we realized the soundness of his arguments.

We fell into the ranks about half past eleven, A.M. and marched down to Montgomery on the R.R. track, and then over into the grove where the camp meeting was held last year. The good people were busily engaged carving turkeys, chickens, roast pig, boiled bacon, &c., &c., and placing them with various luxuries which are not on the soldier's bill of fare, upon the clean white cloths which they had spread upon the green grass. Soon all was ready, and the Rev. Mr. Macraeder was invited to make a few remarks to the company. He spoke in a very pleasant manner, and his words were kindly received by us. We are sorry to say, however, that he was misinformed in regard to the contributors. He stated that the dinner

was given by the ladies of Aurora, Montgomery, and Sugar Grove. We would state that there were several ladies from Aurora who came simply because they were invited; I could not learn that anyone was there from Montgomery; hence the credit of the affair belongs to the ladies of Sugar Grove. We say this, not because we would not like to have the ladies of Aurora or Montgomery have the credit of doing the same thing – but because we do not wish to force them to have the “name without they can have the game.”

Capt. Jenks was brief in his remarks in reply. He expressed his satisfaction at the motives which inspired the hearts of his men – he spoke of his hopes and his good intentions, and finally returned his most sincere thanks to the friends, for the deep interest which they took in our welfare, and which they had so clearly manifested by the bountiful repast which they had spread out before us.

We then ate a good hearty dinner, after which we gave three hearty cheers for the ladies.

We had a general good time, while the people were gathering up the “seven baskets full of fragments,” which were carried to camp and presented to Capt. Parkhurst’s company of Morris Guards, who very thankfully received them.

We are truly grateful to our friends for the kindness which they have manifested toward us, and we can but feel that the time is not far distant, when we shall be enabled, indirectly, to suitably reward them for their labor.

F. O. S.

*AB, 9-5-1861*

#### CARD OF THANKS

At the muster-roll-call of the Bristol Light Infantry, Saturday morning, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1861, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted with three hearty cheers:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this company are due and are hereby tendered to Mrs. E. Y. Fowler, of Aurora, for her acceptable present of a large basket of excellent varieties of cake, to which ample justice has been done.

*Resolved*, That the recollection of the kindness of that lady, although a stranger, will go with us where duty calls; and that no act of ours shall cause her to regret it.

*Resolved*, That the copy of these resolutions be furnished the Aurora Beacon, for publication.

CHAS. D. FISH, Capt.  
Geo. S. Bartlett, Orderly Sergeant.

*AB, 9-5-1861*

LETTER FROM CAMP

Camp Hammond, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1861

Dear Beacon: -- There is nothing of special interest transpiring at the camp. The companies are filling up; a squad of seventeen came up from Young America this morning, and joined Captain Miller's Aurora Guards, Captain Baldwin's company being full. A great many of the men are absent on furloughs, settling up their business and getting ready to leave on hours notice. This regiment is formed of different material from many that has gone to war, being composed mainly of farmers, mechanics and business men, and it takes more time to get their affairs fixed for a three years absence. Some of them have made heavy sacrifices in order to get away, in some instances selling their crops for less than one third their value; and in some cases, (although I am happy to believe that they are rare) laboring men have been compelled to lose their entire summer's wages, because their employers refused to pay them, knowing that they could not stop to collect the amount. The man who would refuse to pay a hired man when he wants to enlist in the service of his country is a dishonest scoundrel, and should be held up to the execration of all honest men. The men, however, to their praise be it said, submit to these things without a murmur, although they sometimes threaten hard things when they come back, and I do not blame them.

We had our first battalion drill yesterday afternoon in the field opposite the camp. The ground was in bad condition on account of the late rains. Never the less the companies went through their evolutions in a very credible manner. The Colonel complimented the men upon their fine appearance, and told them that they were better disciplined than the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment were after they had been drilling three weeks. The reason of this is that the men attend to company drills and are of a class that can and will learn.

The boys have fine times here with their visitors and friends. Yesterday the good people of Elgin came down and gave the "Greys" a pic-nic, and today the Newark folks are coming up to give Captain Olson's boys a benefit. Several of the officers of the different companies have been invited, and I have no doubt it will be a nice affair.

Lieut. McNeil, of the Young America company, dislocated his shoulder badly the other day. He is easier today, but it will be several weeks before he will be fit for active duty. Lieut. M. is respected by all his acquaintances, and his being

disabled will be a serious loss to the company.

We do not know how soon we shall leave here, but the indications are that the time will not be long before we shall be called upon to earn our rations. The boys are in a hurry to go. They are getting tired of inaction and are anxious to commence the work for which they enlisted.

C.

*AB, 9-5-1861*

FROM CAMP HAMMOND

Camp Hammond, Sept. 7, 1861

Dear Beacon: -- We have had fine weather this week, and things have passed off very pleasantly at the camp. Our officers are beginning to enforce the rules and regulations which are necessary in order to have peace and harmony where so many men are collected together. As yet, the deportment of the men has been almost unexceptionable. There have been but one or two instances of putting men in the guard house, and they were confined but a short time. Col. Greusel remarked to a friend of his, that he was proud of his regiment, and that he never saw men more interested in a cause than his were. He may well say so, for certainly I never saw so much interest manifested by a body of men gathered together as they have been from the "four winds" and of almost every class and grade. They manifest common interest in the great cause in which we are engaged, and all seem to realize the necessity of fitting themselves for the duties which will soon devolve upon them. Their progress in drilling shows clearly that they intend that the word of the Col. to Gen. Fremont shall prove true. Said he to him: "I will bring you a better drilled regiment for the length of time employed, than you have ever seen."

We rise at 5 o'clock A.M. and drill until seven. We then take our breakfast, arrange things in the tents, and clean up our streets, after which we drill until about half past eleven. In the afternoon our hours for drilling are between two and four o'clock, at which time we form on for battalion drill, and march to the field east of the camp ground, where we drill until five. We then take our supper and fall into the ranks for dress parade at six o'clock. The orders for the next day are then given and the parade is dismissed. Our evenings are spent in singing and conversing with each other. At nine o'clock precisely our lights must be extinguished and there must be silence in the tents.

Our guard has been doubled around the grounds, and no soldier is permitted to pass in or out of the grounds, except the commissioned officers, without a pass, which must be signed by the Adjutant. No Captain is allowed to give out more

than six passes at a time, and those are good for one day only. Citizens are allowed to pass in and out as they please, at the entrance on the west side of the ground. But few furloughs are given to the men, and these for the shortest possible time.

The ladies of Montgomery and Bristol got up a pic-nic for the Young America Company this week. Finding that they had an abundance for many more, they extended an invitation to the Morris Guards, the Oswego Company, and the Aurora Dragoons. At about half past eleven A.M., we formed in line. The Morris Guards fell in at the right – Capt. Parkhurst commander. The company from Young America, commanded by Capt. Baldwin, joined on next, the Oswego Company, commanded by Capt. Camp, next, and the Aurora Dragoons, commanded by Capt. Jenks, on the left. We marched to the grove by the music of the fife and drum, Col. Greusel taking command of the whole company. Major Barry also accompanied us. The table was beautifully spread with every luxury. The dinner was enjoyed very much by all except the Morris Guards, a part of whom were obliged to wait on account of the length of the table, which was not sufficient to accommodate all. Some of them refused to eat after the rest had finished, although there was an abundance left, and their Capt. tried hard to have them partake of it. They soon left the grounds. Before leaving, however, they gave three cheers for the ladies and three groans for the men who crowded them out. We was sorry to see such a spirit manifested by those who previous to this had well earned the name of gentlemen. A flag was presented to the Ladies of Montgomery and surrounding country by the Young America Company, after which three hearty cheers were given for them, and then we returned to camp. At night a special order was given, that “no more companies would be allowed to have pic-nics given them off the grounds.” This shows that the Col. has decided that the best of feeling shall exist among his men, and as this has been the cause of creating hard feelings with some, it shall be removed before anything serious results from it.

I hope and trust that nothing may occur which shall set one man of the regiment against another, but that peace and harmony may prevail throughout the ranks and that united in heart and hand, we may go forth determined to labor together until every traitor is blotted from existence, or made to acknowledge and swear allegiance to the best Government that has ever existed since the world began.

Yesterday Col. Greusel, with a squad of the three months men, went to Aurora to pay the last sad rites to Capt. Dennison, who died at Quincy a few days since. His death is deeply felt by those who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. He is said to have been a man of a good deal of ability, and one who would have gained an enviable reputation as an officer had he had the opportunity of meeting Southern traitors face to face. It seem as tho’ we could not bear the loss of such

men, but they are falling one by one, and our only hope is that those who do live will be inspired with new courage, and come forward to fill the vacant places, as honorably and creditably as those who have passed away.

F. O. W.

*WS, 9-18-1861*

FROM AURORA  
FROM OURSPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Camp Hammond, Aurora, Ill.,  
Monday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL:

The weather here is quite fine, though cloudy, and for the last few days we have had very little practice in drilling. The health of the company continues quite good, and in fact we have only to report a few cases of diarrhea. This will continue to a greater or less extent, until all become used to camp life, and learn to exercise due caution with regards to their diet, and coming from homes where all have been indulged in the luxuries of life, it is not strange that some slight illness should follow the transition from the affluence of home to the privations of camp.

Since my last, the company has received a large accession of splendid men, and the ranks are now nearly full. Yet there is room for a few more, room for a few bold men, who with their comrades wish to fight the battles of the nation.

Our boys are full of fun and good nature, and when the time comes, under the lead of Joslyn, they will not fear to face the enemy. But as long as we remain here, it will be impossible to keep the men together, and attain that proficiency which we might at a greater distance from home, and I believe this will prove a powerful reason to induce the speedy march of the regiment.

Even now there is a rumor on the ground, that we shall leave here on Thursday, but of these reports (many of which are circulating in McHenry) nothing is certain. Only this is sure, that some fine day we shall receive orders to march, and then in a few days farewell to Illinois. Occasionally, during the last two weeks, we have been gladdened by the sight of familiar faces and often when not seen we have been reminded of them by their timely presents.

Gradually the reins of discipline are being drawn tighter and tighter, and we assume more and more the appearance of soldiers. Our uniforms and arms are not yet here but we are yet in daily expectation of receiving them.

Everything goes on swimmingly, and as usual, yesterday, Divine Services were held on the ground, Rev. A. J. Joslyn officiating

An election for 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, was held which after a spirited contest resulted in the choice of M. F. Ellsworth.

The following officers have been appointed:

Charles F. Dike,	First Sergeant	
Augustus L. Patterson	Second	do.
Theodore L. Griffin,	Third	do.
Morris Briggs,	Fourth	do.
H. H. Hayden,	Fifth	do.

As long as we stay here there will not be much news of interest. But be sure and send us the Sentinel, I assure you, every available copy is eagerly seized immediately on its arrival.

Yours truly, H.

*AB, 9-19-1861*

FROM CAMP HAMMOND

Camp Hammond, Sept. 14, 1861.

Dear Beacon: -- On Tuesday last we had a fine rain, which served to lay the dust for a time, at least. We have suffered a great deal from the dust, as it has been

quite dry since we have been in camp. It is pleasant to sit in our tents and “listen to the patter of the soft rain overhead.” It seems to remind us of earlier days, when working upon a New England farm, these gentle drops of rain assured us that a day of rest was at hand. But, as some of the boys emerged from their tents after the shower was over, they were also reminded by the openings in their boots, through which these drops quickly entered, that the uniforms that Uncle Sam has provided them, and which have been expected so long, had not yet arrived. The Government agent commenced purchasing the horses for Capt. Jenk’s company of Dragoons last Monday. From seventy to ninety dollars apiece have been paid for those which have been purchased. We feel deeply interested in this matter, and ask seriously, is this all that the Government does pay for these horses, and if so, is that all it can afford to pay for them? Is it expected that horses purchased at these prices, will be fit for us to ride into the battle field and risk our lives upon? If this is all that can be paid, then we hope those who remain at home, while we go forth to fight the battles of our country, will come forth and furnish us with such horses as shall enable us to perform effectually, those labors by which alone this rebellion can be put down. It is well known that companies of cavalry are much needed at the present time in Missouri, but of what service can we be if we are furnished with horses which are not considered fit to work on a farm. I hope our countrymen will remember that if there is any place where a good horse is needed, it is in the cavalry service. The lives of your friends depend, to a great extent, upon the horses they are compelled to ride.

Recruits are coming in daily, and our companies are almost full. Men are leaving families and friends, and some a large amount of property, to engage in this great cause. It is such men as these that will give character to our regiment, for they have not entered the service for a love of adventure, or from idle curiosity. Officers and men are becoming anxious to appear on the stage of action, yet feel that it would be folly to do so until they are better acquainted with their business. They will probably make more progress in drilling after they leave here, as both officers and men are too much interested in things out of camp to advance rapidly in drilling.

The members of our band are doing finely. They have improved very much since they first commenced playing.

We have been expecting to be mustered into the service every day for a week, but the mustering officer did not make his appearance until Thursday noon. Col. Webb, of Chicago, is the mustering officer. He is a noble looking man, something over six feet high and well proportioned. He has a commanding appearance, and this, with the pleasant expression upon his countenance and his business like manner, cannot fail to inspire his men with respect for him. The examination lasted about two hours. There will be from twelve to fifteen men in

the regiment that will not be accepted. These men, although unfit for service, seem determined to serve their country, yet the consequences be what they may, but in their condition they would be of but little service, and hence it is probable that they will not be allowed to go. There were two members of the Oswego Company who refused to take the oath. As soon as their company disbanded, they started on a double quick for the road, followed by their indignant comrades, who with a gentle touch of the toe and a brisk application of the cowhide, assisted them greatly in their onward march. Those who met them afterwards said they looked as though their last friend had deserted them, and as though they had taken part in what might be termed a "forced march." I rather think the boys must have forgotten the fable of the boy and the frogs—"what is fun for you is death for me."

Capt. Miller and Jenk's companies have been highly favored by receiving a very nice supper from the ladies of Aurora last Wednesday afternoon. The tables were set while we were out on the battalion drill, between the hours of four and five. We should judge that the ladies of Aurora intend that there shall be no half way work about anything which they undertake, for they certainly gave us a whole supper. We had enough of everything which the heart could wish, and some to spare. We would thank our friends for their kindness in bestowing upon us these favors, which they may rest assured we know how to appreciate.

There are but five men in the hospital at the present time. It is remarkable that out of so many men so few of them should be sick. We may add, that much credit is due to our surgeons, who devote their whole time and attention to the wants of their patients, thus saving many of them from the long and irksome confinement which must necessarily be endured after a disease is fastened upon them.

Lieutenant S. B. Sherer was presented with a beautiful sword by his friends on the west side of the river last Thursday. On Thursday evening the citizens of the east side of the river presented three swords to our soldiers; one to Lieutenant Walker, one to Adjutant Geo. Willis, and one to Lieutenant A. C. Ferre. They were beautiful weapons. The presentation speech was made by Capt. Silas Miller, of Aurora. It was short, earnest, and to the point. The presentation took place upon the balcony of the Aurora House, which was beautifully decorated with flags. Most of the officers of the regiment were present and seated upon the balcony. Lieutenant Col. Joslyn made a closing speech. He spoke for half an hour with that earnestness which can only be felt by one who takes deep interest in the cause in which he is engaged. There was a large crowd of people in the street and upon the balcony of the Empire House. After giving three cheers they quietly dispersed, many of them deeply impressed with the scene which had passed before them. It was indeed a solemn occasion. The people had gathered together to see those deadly weapons presented to their friends, knowing that they were presented for no

idle purpose, and they may rest assured these men will prove themselves worthy the confidence which has been placed in them by the citizens and the citizen's soldiery.

The good people of Plato came up to camp on Friday, and gave the Plato Cavalry a pic-nic. The fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers of this company, came forward and generously contributed everything in the shape of eatables that could be asked for. They probably felt that this was the last time that they would have to show their regard by such kind office to these brave men. The weather being unpleasant, a large portion remained in camp all night.

It is uncertain how soon we shall leave here, but all hope to leave soon. Our officers are exerting themselves to this effect.

F. O. W.

**The Regiment was organized at Camp Hammond, Aurora, Illinois, and  
mustered in September 23, 1861**

*EG, 9-25-1861*

MUSTER ROLLS

We publish today the complete muster roll of the Elgin Greys, and the Plato Cavalry company. Next week we shall give the roll of the Woodstock Rifles, and of the Wayne Company. Then we shall obtain the list of some of the companies of the Lincoln and Farnsworth regiments.

REGIMENTAL OFFICERS

Colonel, Nichoals Greusal  
Lieut. Colonel, E. S. Joslyn  
Major, A. H. Barry  
Adjutant, George A. Willis

Quartermaster, I. N. Buck  
Surgeon, D. W. Young  
Assistant Dr. Hawley  
Chaplain, Rev. C. G. Lyon  
Sergeant Major, Fred A. Raymond  
Quartermaster Sergeant, Addison E. Keyes  
Regimental Wagonmaster, Elijah Buck

ELGIN GREYS  
OFFICERS

M. B. Baldwin, Captain  
E. S. Chappell, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant  
Wm. Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant  
Geo. D. Sherman, 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant  
T. J. Twing, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant  
A. C. Lynn, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sergeant  
S. H. McKenn, 4<sup>th</sup> Sergeant  
A. Robinson, 5<sup>th</sup> Sergeant  
W. J. Ordway, 1<sup>st</sup> Corporal  
L. P. Ticknor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corporal  
J. W. Aldrich, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corporal  
D. C. Rowland, 4<sup>th</sup> Corporal  
L. Salisbury, 5<sup>th</sup> Corporal  
W. H. Mitchell, 6<sup>th</sup> Corporal  
J. S. Long, 7<sup>th</sup> Corporal  
F. B. Perkins, 8<sup>th</sup> Corporal  
J. C. Deanison, Capt's Private Secretary  
Chas. B. Stiles, Musician  
B. Loveless, Musician  
F. W. Raymond, Commissary Department  
Jas. H. Moore, Commissary Department

PRIVATES

N. Adams	J. M. Vining
A. Andrews	A. White
C. A. Brown	J. A. White
D. W. Brown	E. J. Wickwire
Pat. Bramer	H. H. Wilcox
C. P. Baker	J. W. Yerkes
Fred H. Bermaster	Alex Chambers

J. B. Barr	C. T. Dean
John Blackmar	Freeman Dunklee
R. M. Chapman	Thos. Freiner
Chas. G. Cox	John Flood
Heaty Classen	John Faulkner
Isaac Miner	Henry Ford
Lewis Milliar	Chas. H. Gales
L. W. Mann	Patrick Gibbons
Darius Murus	Moses T. Gibbs
Ed. Nute	A. S. Harpending
F. J. Nichols	E. B. Householder
John O'Connel	J. C. Hall
Chas. Olszenoskie	Daniel B. Hoxie
Chandler Preston	Alex F. Henderson
Geo. D. Peeler	Henry Howe
E. H. Robinson	J. A. Howett
Augustus Ritz	C. P. O. Holser
C. B. Rapp	Jas. Halburtin
Timothy King	D. F. Jayne
I. H. Severin	FRED Kuhn
C. H. Finex	Geo. H. Knowles
C. I. themer	Peter Little
A. B. Thomas	Geo. W. Locke
M. S. Tomson	Tobias Milliar
J. B. F. Taylor	Wm. F. Sylla

### LYON DRAGOONS OFFICERS

H. A. Smith, Captain  
 Samuel Chapman, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant  
 John S. Durand, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant  
 Edward M. Barnard, 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant  
 Henry C. Padelford, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant  
 V. O. Wilcox, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sergeant  
 J. Lovel, 4<sup>th</sup> Sergeant  
 G. W. Archer, 5<sup>th</sup> Sergeant  
 John W. Davis, Q. M. Sergeant  
 J. A. McQueen, 1<sup>st</sup> Corporal  
 H. Weightman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corporal  
 H. C. Scott, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corporal

N. Larkins, 4<sup>th</sup> Corporal  
W. Duncan, 5<sup>th</sup> Corporal  
E. H. Griggs, 6<sup>th</sup> Corporal  
J. T. Baker, 7<sup>th</sup> Corporal  
S. Rue, 8<sup>th</sup> Corporal  
W. S. Clarks, Bugler  
J. M. Padelford, Farrier  
Wm. Donovan, Blacksmith  
R. C. Fowler, Saddler  
J. C. Pratte, Wagoner

### PRIVATES

Ainick, M. J.	Muldoon, J.
Archer, J.	Mann, E
Ball, H.	McLean
Brown, N	Nelson, H.
Briggs, M	Porchet, P. D.
Batch, E	Perry, M. L.
Cardner, E	Peterson, D.
Collins, R	Pease, W. H.
Collins, G.	Pease, A. A.
Christie, W. J.	Perkins, Geo.
Cox, G.	Phelan, J.
Crysler, B. N.	Pingle, J. D.
Curtis, J. B.	Pettingill, Geo.
Campbell, G. W.	Rettis, D.
Cooley, C.	Reynolds, D.
Eaton, H.	Robinson, E.
Everts, E. F.	Robinson, T. G.
Fraser, J.	Rue, J.
Fletcher, W.	Rogers, H. J.
Glennon, P.	Rumsey, A.
Gallagher, R.	Stringer, J. J.
Gilbert, J.	Scott, A. D.
Gallagher, E.	Strang, A. L.
Hargee, N.	Seward, C. L.
Holmes, C. F.	Sawyer, H. M.
Hickey, J.	Sheddan, J.
Hannagan, o.	Satterfield, W. E.
Kennedy, C.	Tucker, C.

Kingsley, J. M.  
Knox, James  
Lee, A. A.  
Lowder, E.  
Lathrop, L. T.  
Meechan, Wm.

Thompson, J. R.  
Winchester, G. W.  
Wattenpaugh, W. W.  
Wattenpaugh, M. F.  
Wallice, N.  
Wagner, J.

*AB, 9-26-1861*

### DEPARTURE OF THE FOX RIVER REGIMENT

At 6 o'clock on Tuesday morning, the soldiers in Camp Hammond struck their tents, and commenced preparations for their departure to St. Louis. The horses of the dragoon companies were put aboard the cars at Montgomery, as was the great bulk of the equipments of the regiment. Ten men from each company were detailed for the purpose of looking after the same on the trip to Quincy.

At 3 o'clock the regiment was formed by companies at the camp and under the direction of Colonel Greusel and Lieutenant Col. Joslyn, marched up to the city, every man uniformed, and knapsacks filled, and haversacks with two day's provision prepared. To say that the regiment made a fine appearance, and drew forth the plaudits of the thousands who were in the city to bid them good-bye, would only be reiterating what has already been said by these thousands. We believe it to be the best regiment that has been formed in Illinois, and it is the largest. As a regiment, so far as the good opinion and praise of their fellow citizens at a distance is hoped for, it has its "reputation to establish," and we and fifty thousand others in the Fox River Valley, feel that they will yet be the pride of the State. We put the prediction on record not fearing but that the noble and patriotic boys of the 36<sup>th</sup> will fulfill the prediction of their friends at home, in adding laurels and honor to the State of Illinois. Nicholas Greusel, the Colonel of the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment, was born at Bliss-Castle, Bavaria, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1817. He came to this country in June, 1832, and made the State of Michigan his home, until he came to Illinois, some six years ago. Early in life he evinced a talent and inclination for military habits and in 1839, when Gov. Mason organized the militia of Michigan, Col. Greusel received his first commission as a Lieutenant in the first brigade formed in that State. Colonel Berrien, who had just left the regular army, was his first instructor in military art and science. He entered into the study with such zeal as to command the admiration of his instructor, and up to this time he has been his fast and firm friend. Col. Greusel devoted himself to the advancement of the military interests of the State unceasingly for years holding various positions among staff and field officers and maintaining an enviable reputation as a

disciplinarian and tactician. When the war with Mexico was forced upon the country, he raised a company and joined General Scott's division of the army at Vera Cruz. He fought in the southern expedition of that branch of our army to Yucatan. He was at the surrender of the city of Mexico, and when peace was declared returned to Detroit. It has been related to us by those who were present upon his return to that city, that he was awarded unbounded praise for his devotion to the best interests of the men of his company, and received valuable tokens of honor and regard for the faithful discharge of his duties as a soldier.

Some six years ago, he came to Illinois as an employee of the C. B. & Q. R. R., and has ever been regarded by officers of this road as a faithful man, and has conciliated their good will and esteem. In April last, he was elected Captain of the first company of volunteers raised in this city, and went to Camp Yates, at Springfield, and joined the 7<sup>th</sup> regiment. He was elected Major, and in July he was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment. At the organization of the Fox River Regiment he was invited to take the command. In doing so he resigned his command in the 7<sup>th</sup> and has labored incessantly to bring the 36<sup>th</sup> to its present enviable equipment. He stands now at the head of the largest, and we believe, the best regiment in Illinois. They have gone to the field. May honor come to the Colonel and every man in his command, and may the people of Illinois, by reason of their patriotism and bravery, yet to be shown, be as proud of them as are their thousands of friends in the Fox River Valley.

Edward S. Joslyn, the Lieut. Colonel of this regiment is about thirty six years of age, and has lived for some twenty five years in this and McHenry County. He is known to every man, woman and child, in these two counties, and we do not believe there is one of all who know him, that doubts his patriotism and courage. The whole regiment are devoted in their confidence of him, and we feel certain that he will maintain himself in the trials and perils which are to come to him and them. They will follow wherever he leads the way and his pathway will be where honor and danger calls.

Major Barry, of the 36<sup>th</sup>, has for many years been a resident of this county. He is a brother of Judge Barry, of St. Charles. He has never had any especial military experience, but his industry, courage, and discretion will bring to him the knowledge necessary for his position. He was early identified with the formation of the regiment. It was early indicated that he would be made the Major. He has grown in the confidence and affection of the men, and he leaves behind as many friends as any officer in the regiment. God bless him! He is a clever boy.

The following are the regimental and company officers:

#### COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Colonel,	Nicholas Greusel
Lieut. Colonel,	E. S. Joslyn
Major,	Alonzo H. Barry
Adjutant,	George A. Willis
Surgeon,	D. W. Young
Assistant Surgeon,	Dr. Sidney B. Hawley
Chaplain,	Rev. G. G. Lyon

#### NON-COMMISSIONED STAFF

Sergeant Major, Frederick A. Raymond; Quarter-master's Sergeant, Addison A. Keyes; Commissary, J. L. Fairman; Hospital Steward, Joseph H. Karl; Principal Musicians, Samuel Rider, Charles Miller; Drum Major, John Snell; Fife Major, Thos. Matteson.

#### BAND

Theodore P. Briggs, Wm. Brown, John Conly, Thos. Conklin, Alonzo H. Davis, Chas. Ertlegerge, G. W. Tickonsher, John Hoirain, J. S. Holenbeck, Fred Harris, Geo. V. Harris, James Harris, John J. Moulding, Henry Russel, Charles Smith, Henry Snell, Peter Stevens, Joy J. Tarbell, W. H. Beardsley, Jas. Hotherson.

#### COMPANY OFFICERS

Company A Cavalry, Capt. Albert Jenks, Aurora; 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. S. B. Sherer; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., A. C. Ferre.

Company B Cavalry, Capt. Henry A. Smith, Plato; 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. S. Chapman; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., J. S. Duran.

Company A Infantry, Capt. M. B. Baldwin, Elgin; 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut., E. S. Chapple; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., W. L. Smith.

Company B, Capt. Silas Miller, Aurora; 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut., Joseph Walker; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., Benj. F. Campbell.

Company C, Capt. Elias Baldwin, Young America; 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut., James McNiel; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., John Turnbull.

Company D, Capt. W. P. Pierce, Lisbon; 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut., John Van Pelt; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., Geo. Parker.

Company E, Capt. C. D. Fish, Bristol; 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut., Albert M. Hobbs; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., Wm. H. Clark.

Company F, Capt. Porter C. Olson, Newark; 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut., George Stonax; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., Martin Wilson.

Company G, Capt. Irvin P. Parkhurst, Morris; 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut., Abel Longworth; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., Robert Denny.

Company H, Capt. Merrit L. Joslyn, Woodstock; 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut., A. H. Sellers; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., M. F. Ellsworth.

Company I, Capt. Camuel C. Camp, Oswego; 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut., Orville D. Merrill; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., W. F. Sutherland.

Company K, Capt. J. Q. Adams, Wayne; 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut., James Foley; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., A. C. Holden

*WS, 10-2-1861*

FROM AURORA  
FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Camp Hammond, Aurora, Ill.,  
Tuesday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1861

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL:

All is hurry and confusion on the ground today, and my time is so limited, that I cannot give you all the trivial and unimportant news floating in camp at the present moment. This is the last letter I shall write from this place. Now, at 9 a.m., the tents are struck, and the regiment is as restless as a swarm of bees. We expect about 4 p.m. to take the cars on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy R.R., en route for Quincy, thence on the Mississippi to St. Louis. Farther than this we know nothing of our destination. The organization of our company is complete the following having been appointed corporals: Horace N. Chittenden, Henry T. Baldwin, Myron A. Smith, Nelson Sherwood, Oscar H. Ford, Alvin Bunker, Myron Kent and Geo. Kingsbury.

At a meeting of the company held in consequence of the death of one of our fellow soldiers, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, Divine Providence has seen fit to remove from our midst one of our comrades in the person of Geo. B. Kingsbury, therefore,

Resolved, That in him we are conscious we have lost a firm patriot, a true soldier and a devoted friend, and as the first fallen in our ranks we regard him as the first martyr to the cause of liberty.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with those friends who in common with us mourn his sudden death.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to each of the Woodstock papers for publication.

Want of time prevents me from writing further.

Yours very truly, H.

**Moved to St. Louis Missouri and thence to Rolla, Missouri September 24-29,  
1861**

The hardships of real war were now catching up with them. Finding “the hardtack” a poor substitute for the delicacies they were use to in Camp Hammond, the men amused themselves by burying it along the roadside “with full military honors”, including a musketry volley. But woe betide to any chicken thieves- Colonel Greusel gave them ten days in the guard house.

*AB, 10-3-1861*

LETTERS FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT

St. Louis, Sept. 28, 1861

FRIEND BANGS: -- I feel like pleading inability to write at present, but I know that we all have many anxious friends that would spare no pains to learn any and all particulars of our journey to this city, and sojourn in it. So as I am detailed to care for Lieut. Chappel and one other man, sick at the St. Charles hotel, and to follow our regiment tomorrow or next day, in company with the two cavalry companies, to Rolla, I will fill up the time by doing the best I am able to render my present circumstances at writing.

Tuesday eve. we left Aurora, as all know. Everything went well save some little delay till the long train came near Galesburg, when the trucks of one car were thrown from the track by the breaking of the couplings; but fortunately they were running so slow that no injury was done to cars or passengers; I only heard of this by accident, knew nothing of it till morning. This together with the rain of Wednesday, prevented our reaching Quincy in time to get all aboard the splendid river steamer Warsaw, which was to take us down the river. So some of the boys staid in the cars the second night, some went into the warehouses, and some were on the boat; all had to lie down on the soft side of a plank, save those in the cars, but none complained and the sickness seemed much less than we had seen in Camp H., until it was discovered that the sick were to occupy the cabin, when there was a sudden increase of the numbers who needed extra attention.

The Warsaw is a large boat and yet she was unable to take us all aboard in any shape, so a part remained to come down on the next boat. All went well down the river; we were on a bar but once. We arrived in St. Louis about 11 P.M., some were on the boat for the night, and such a sight as one could see on the hurricane deck, the guards, the cabin floor, and almost every inch of space was covered with the sleepers. Yesterday, (Friday) was spent in going to the arsenal and getting arms; and there we found some feeling stirred up. A young man that had assisted in delivering arms to 12 regiments, informed me that we were getting arms that could not be had by those that had preceded us, and that ours were much better than any of the 12. Our company on the right received the Enfield rifle with clasp bayonet; the left received the Minnie rifle with sword bayonet. Six others received the Austrian rifle musket (bright), and two were offered the same kind, or nearly so, but bronzed, and without the clasp bayonet; these they refused to receive, and marched back to the boat without arms; but I noticed today on the train that takes their freight to Rolla, several boxes containing guns, which I hope for their sake are as good as the other six companies of the centre received. We spent last night on the boat, and this morning orders came for us to go to Jefferson City by rail, and then when our freight was partly aboard, another order came for us to go to Rolla. So they are off for Rolla. Our cavalry boys have not yet received arms. They stay tonight at Benton Barracks. They made a fine appearance today, as they rode through the city four abreast. The impression here with us, is that General F., designs taking the 13<sup>th</sup> Illinois Regiment to Lexington, to aid in subduing Price, and that there will ere long be a fight in that direction.

I must close with a word or two about the sick; all are improving; we have none but what were able to go from boat to cars, except Lieut. Chappel and this eve. he feels much like going on with us tomorrow. I wish through you to thank the kind ladies of Aurora and Bristol, in behalf of any that may have need of bandages, for the very liberal supply they have given us; besides, from the ladies of Aurora, we received for the use of the hospital, towels, pillows, and several nice woolen blankets for all of which the sick will be doubly thankful.

That portion of our boys that came on the second boat, under the care of little Doc. F., were noticed in the papers, as a hundred *raw recruits* for the army. You may judge of the impression we made on the public, by the fact that our cavalry boys on the first train bore themselves so nobly as to be taken for Regimental officers at Galesburg. I wish I felt like writing more and better, but must say good night.

Yours,

SCALPEL.

*AB, 10-3-1861*

St. Louis, Sept. 28, 1861

Dear Beacon: -- The Fox River (36<sup>th</sup>) Regiment left Aurora on Tuesday evening, en route for this place, in the service of the United States. We arrived at Quincy on Wednesday at 4 o'clock P.M., without an accident of any kind. On Thursday morning we were put on board the steamer Warsaw, and brought to St. Louis, arriving at 10 o'clock in the evening. Friday morning we marched to the arsenal, six miles below, where we were supplied with our arms, rifles and rifled muskets, then brought back to the place where we started all right. This morning the baggage and troops are being moved from the boat, preparatory to a move; the report is that we are going up the Missouri river to join Fremont at Jefferson City, but I cannot vouch for the truth of the report. There is no doubt however, but what our destination is up the river. The boys are in excellent spirits considering their confinement, not having been on shore since they left Aurora, except to march from the boat to the arsenal yesterday, and the fact that they have had only bread, cold meat and coffee. They are a noble set of fellows, an honor to their country and the section whence they came. The field and company officers have treated their men with the utmost kindness, giving up their berth to the sick, sleeping on a plank themselves, and doing their utmost to get the rest of them enough to eat and a comfortable place to sleep. The sick boys are doing finely, several have left the hospital since we left camp and the rest are doing well.

We saw several "secesh" prisoners at the arsenal, among them a Lieutenant Colonel. The most of them were a set of ragged looking "uncultivated cusses," who don't know enough to appreciate a free government. They were employed doing "fatigue duty" around the grounds. I could write you many amazing incidents of our trip so far, but my time and space forbids. I will write you again the first opportunity, when I hope to give a good account of the boys of the noble 36<sup>th</sup>.

"Bill."

*AB, 10-3-1861*

Benton Barracks, Sept. 29, 1861.

Dear Beacon. -- The merry peal of the church bells at St. Louis, tells me that another holy Sabbath has dawned upon the world, bringing with it its thousand blessings, and its longed for rest. And never was it more welcome than after the

journey of the past week, which has brought me to this place. This is almost the first time since we started that I have had a spare moment, and I feel as though I ought to devote its suggestions to the readers of the Beacon, for I know that they are looking anxiously for any information you may receive from the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

I will try and review the scenes and occurrences of the past week. On Monday last we received the welcome news that we were to leave Camp Hammond on Tuesday, at 4 o'clock P.M. Welcome, not because we were to leave those friends from whom we had received so many tokens of affection, but because we were awake to the necessity of immediate action and continued exertion, which, surrounded as we were by friends and acquaintances at Camp Hammond was out of the question. Monday afternoon one of our boys informed us that the man who had employed him during the season, was owing him eighteen dollars, which he refused to pay, and that his wages were only twelve dollars per month. We started just about dark and went to his house, and three of our boys kindly requested him to cancel the debt. This he very insolently refused to do, when "hurrah boys," bro't the rest of us to the spot, and we demanded that he should pay the debt or give us one of his horses as security until he could raise the money. He told us to take the horse. We took him to camp and stationed a guard over him for the night. The next morning both cavalry companies declared that he should not have the horse until he had made everything satisfactory. He came in the forenoon and did so, and took his horse home. We would not mention the name of one who would thus wrong an honest, penniless working man, because he thought he had the advantage of him, hoping that in the future he will show to those with whom he is connected, that he has at least a spark of manliness still existing in his bosom. This was our last night in Aurora, and one which will probably be remembered by those who were members of our first scouting party.

On Tuesday all was confusion in camp. At about 9 o'clock we received orders to pull up stakes, pack up, and be ready to leave Aurora at 4 o'clock P.M. The friends commenced coming in at an early hour, and hundreds were soon collected upon the grounds. Father and mother, sister and brother, friends and acquaintances, came from every quarter to once more behold and bid good bye to the volunteers of Kane and surrounding counties. The boys were somewhat boisterous while they were performing their work, but as the time drew nigh, when they were about to leave the spot where they had passed so many pleasant hours, and be deprived entirely of the society of their friends, they became more quiet, realizing perhaps, more fully, that they were going away. Some were indifferent to the last, but there were few eyes which were not wet with tears, and many hearts were too full for utterance as they enjoyed a short time longer with the society of their friends.

The horses were loaded at Montgomery depot, eleven horses being placed in

a car, as there was not sufficient cars to load them as is customary. The tents, baggage, etc. were loaded east of the camp ground and taken to Montgomery, and the baggage train made up there. At about 3 o'clock, the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Illinois Volunteers left Camp Hammond and marched to Aurora, followed by an immense collection of people. They crossed the bridges, passed up Broadway, crossed over to the depot, and then closed en masse in front of the Aurora House, where they halted to bid adieu to their friends, and wait for the train which was to take them to Quincy.

It was a trying time to some. The deepest and best thoughts suggested on an occasion like that will never be spoken, but I feel they will be productive of good. The last farewells were soon spoken, the hardest part of our leaving was over and the train moved slowly away. It was sundown when we left Aurora, and darkness soon overtook us. Some of us having tired out, slept tolerably well during the night. We arrived at Galesburg just at daybreak. About one mile north of Galesburg, the coupling to one of the cars gave way, and five cars were left behind. One ran off the track, but no damage was done. An engine went after them and soon bro't them up with us. While we were waiting, some of the Cavalry boys were standing on the platform at the depot, with their overcoats on, when a citizen, standing near Major Barry, and looking at us, remarked, "They have a fine looking set of field officers." Whether our friend Barry regarded this as a complaint to us, or a good joke on the officers, is more than I can tell.

It commenced raining after we left Galesburg, and made it rather gloomy for us. South of Galesburg the land, most of it is much more rolling than in Kane County. There is but little board fence, but a great deal of hedge and rail fence. This part of the road was quite rough, and I should judge that the country was not as good for farming purposes as the more northern portions of the State. Most of the way it is thinly settled, and there are but few flourishing towns on the road.

All along our route people were gathered at the stations, and as the train approached they came running from the houses towards us, waving their handkerchiefs and hats, and cheering us on our way. The joyful expression of their countenances and the demonstrations of good will, thrilled our very souls, and were well calculated to dispel the sadness which may have taken possession of our hearts. I remember one noble looking old lady particularly, who stood near the track waving her handkerchief, and bidding us "God speed," while the tears streamed down her cheeks. It may have brought to mind a time when a son, and perhaps an only one, had left his poor old mother, with none to support and protect her but a father in heaven, to go forth as we are going, to fight, and perhaps to die for the preservation of this great Government. Just as we came in sight of the Mississippi River, the sun, which had been obscured all day, shot forth brightly, and seemed to revive the drooping spirits of the boys, and they appeared to be

happy once more. We arrived at Quincy at 4 o'clock P.M., and part of us spent the night on board the steamer Warsaw, which was to take us to St. Louis.

I had but little time to look around at Quincy. There are some handsome buildings situated upon the bluff. I saw two seceshers there who were brought up the river Monday night. I had some conversation with them; they seemed to be very ignorant of the principals of the Republican Party, and the intentions of the administration. They were taken while returning home from the battle of Lexington. Both declared themselves in favor of secession.

There were fifteen hundred of the Irish Brigade at Quincy when we left there, but they have since come to Benton Barracks. They have received no pay for their services since they enlisted, and had no money to take them home. They told some very hard stories in regard to their sufferings occasioned by want of water and provisions. They say that they have received no clothing from the Government since they have been in service, and if their stories are correct, show that they have been shamefully abused. Every man speaks in the highest terms of Colonel Mulligan as a man and a soldier. I understand that he is no longer a prisoner, but is settling up some business in Lexington.

We were divided at Quincy, as the Warsaw would not take all of the horses. We left at 9 o'clock A.M. Among the spectators on the wharf were Mrs. Greusel, Mrs. E. Y. Polleys and Mrs. P. P. Hayward, of Aurora, who accompanied the regiment thus far on its journey. We had a pleasant journey down the Mississippi to St. Louis, running aground but once on the way, and arriving there at 10 o'clock Thursday P.M., sleeping on the boat the rest of the night. Friday we went to the arsenal to get our arms. Eight companies of infantry were armed. There were no arms for the Wayne Rifles, the Morris Guards or the cavalry companies. Company C and B of the infantry received rifles, and the rest rifled muskets. Company C received the Enfield rifles. Company B received rifles with sword bayonets. We returned to St. Louis and staid on the boat all night. Our horses stood the journey much better than we anticipated. None were badly injured, and some came through without a scratch. Yesterday the infantry companies went to Camp Rolla, and the cavalry companies to Benton Barracks. We expect to follow them tomorrow, as our baggage has all gone with them. General Curtis has command of this division. As near as I can learn, there's about ten thousand in the Barracks, and about eight thousand close by here. Twelve thousand men have left here within the last four days. They have picket guards stationed for several miles in all directions around the camp. One of the guards on the side of the camp ground was shot at last night. He stated that the ball passed very near his head. Camp Benton is a beautiful place. The barracks are made of rough boards, with a piazza in front, and a shed for the tables in the rear. They are about 26 feet wide. Each building accommodates two companies, and there are five such buildings in a row. The

water is better than the Mississippi water, but not as good as we used to get at home. The health of the soldiers is generally good. We hope to receive a copy of the Beacon soon, bring "good news from home."

F. O. W.

*WS, 10-9-1861*

THE WOODSTOCK RIFLES AT ROLLA  
FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Camp 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vol., Rolla, Mo.  
Wednesday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1861.

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL:

Once more since we arrived in the land of the secesh, we have the glad sight before our eyes of the train, which with us, arrives only semi occasionally from St. Louis. For some days previous to the 24<sup>th</sup> it was known that on that day we would leave the camp, but for what place, few were certain. On Monday, Col. Webb appeared on the ground, and the entire regiment was sworn into the U. S. service, thus making it doubly sure that we were Uncle Sam's boys. On the previous Sunday, the uniforms were dealt out, and consisted of a regulation cap, blue jacket, leather stock, 2 woolen shirts, 2 pairs sky blue pants, 2 pairs drawers, 5 pairs stockings, and one pair sewed shoes. The boys are well satisfied with their clothes and when they receive their overcoats will have all that is needed. Each one is supplied with a double blanket which is about 15 feet long and 4 feet wide, a knapsack, haversack and canteen.

Quite early on Tuesday the ground was covered with a dense throng of people, friends and relatives of the soldiers, there waiting to bid them goodbye and see them off. Everyone was busy. All the extra baggage was packed in boxes and hurried on board the train. At 9 o'clock the tents were struck, and the entire camp presented the appearance of a vast swarm of bees. Rations for three days were issued and distributed, and precisely at 4 o'clock, Camp Hammond was abandoned, and the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Ill. Vol. marched to Aurora and soon filled the huge train of 27 passenger cars which was waiting there to receive us. The march through Aurora was one continued ovation. From all the neighboring towns the people had flocked to see the Fox River Regiment depart, and thousands lined the sidewalks and streets. Soon the adieus were said, and amid the cheers of the enthusiastic crowd, away went the train en route to Quincy. Morning found us at Galesburgh, and also revealed the fact that the two hindmost cars had broken from the train and were, no one knows where. An engine was sent back and soon

brought them up. The journey was continued, and at 4 p.m., of Wednesday, we arrived at Quincy and found the steamer Warsaw waiting to carry us to St. Louis. That night, some of us slept on the boat, and some on the cars, and thus made ourselves quite comfortable.

Next morning, at 10 a.m., we started down the Mississippi, and on Friday morning arrived at the city of St. Louis. We marched to the Arsenal, and with much murmuring received our arms, which consist of U. S. muskets of the Springfield pattern, made in 1841, but recently rifled; common bayonets, belt cartridge box, &c., &c. The musicians received a straight sword each, and the orderlies the same, in addition to their muskets.

After we received our muskets, we marched back to the boat, and passed the night on it.

The next afternoon we left the boat and took the cars of the Pacific R. R., most of us supposing our destination to be Jefferson City, but when we arrived at Franklin, we took the southern branch, and on Sunday morning arrived at Rolla, where we immediately went into camp, and we now think we shall stay here during the entire winter; however, nothing is certain.

Rolla is about as large as Crystal Lake, but lacks its elegance. It derives its importance from being the terminus of the Southern branch of the Pacific R. R., and hence is the key to the entire surrounding country. It is commanded by a fort mounting four 32 pounders, and for its defence there are now here about 4000 men.

Only one man in our company, Robert Key, is in the hospital; he is sick with the measles. The 15<sup>th</sup> Regiment is here, and we daily see our friends in its ranks. We have seen no papers since we arrived, and are eagerly looking for, and daily expecting, the Sentinel.

Yours truly, H.

P.S. Direct all letters to -----, Missouri, via St. Louis, 36<sup>th</sup> Reg't Ill. Vol., Co..  
H.

*WS, 10-23-1861*

THE WOODSTOCK RIFLES AT ROLLA  
FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Camp 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vol., Rolla, Mo.  
Wednesday, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL:

The day gives promise of a rainy termination, and our company is on guard.

The two last times we have occupied that position it has rained each day, so we, at length, consider that whenever it is the turn of the company to stand guard, it must need rain to fill out the programme. There are here, at present, but two regiments, the 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa, Col. Dodge, and the 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., our own. Col. Dodge is commanding officer. Since we have been here, two regiments have left the place. The 15<sup>th</sup> Ill., for Jefferson City, and last Thursday, the 13<sup>th</sup> Ill., under Brig. Gen. Wyman, marched out of the place in a westerly direction on the Springfield road. How far they have gone we do not know, and I have no means of ascertaining. Only it is rumored that they had a fight at a place called Lebanon, and were victorious, though with severe loss. I believe our camp is quite often visited by spies. In fact, I see very little to prevent them. Persons in citizen's dress are almost indiscriminately admitted, and a breakfast of buckskin pies, or a pail of doughnuts, seems an ample pass to procure admittance, or an exit from the camp. Pickets are stationed in a circle ten miles from camp, and a sharp lookout is kept for the secesh. Our regiment is progressing finely, both in the manual of arms, and Battalion drill, and directed by Col. Greusel, with his untiring energy, we expect to be a truly well drilled regiment. Our drill now consists of about an hour in the manual, an hour in the Battalion, and dress parade.

A few days ago a company of home guards came in from Douglas County, where the secesh were becoming too thick for them. They were a hardy and, almost ferocious set of men, and looking on them one could not help thinking of the revolutionary heroes, now dead and gone. They fought to acquire those blessings which for years we have enjoyed. And these old patriots dressed so quaintly, and so poorly, with their long hunting rifles, some with the snows of seventy winters on their heads, are all exiles from their homes. They seemed fitting men to uphold the cause of Freedom and retain and perpetuate those privileges now threatened by our enemies.

Two deaths have occurred in our regiment since we arrived here. One, of the Aurora Cavalry, and 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Chappell, of the Elgin Grays, who died yesterday. His body will be sent with an escort to Elgin, by the first train. Of our company, the following are now sick; Hovey Chittenden, Edward Kapple, and Charles Thomas. None of them are dangerous cases, and they all remain in their tents, preferring them to the hospital.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., Morris F. Ellsworth, has resigned, for reasons not known, and as the matter is not yet adjusted, I refrain from making any comments.

Yesterday, our Chaplain appeared on the ground. Elder Lyon is accompanied by his wife, and brought a large number of letters for the boys, together with the news, in the shape of a large bundle of Sentinels, which were especially welcome. No more at present.

Yours truly,            H.

*WS, 10-30-1861*

LETTERS FROM CAMP  
FROM MISSOURI  
THE WOODSTOCK RIFLES AT ROLLA  
FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Camp 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vol. Rolla, Mo.,  
Wednesday, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1861.

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL:

Though we are in this southern latitude yet with us the weather is becoming quite chilly, and we all feel more comfortable with our winter clothing on. Our time is occupied with the usual employments of soldiers, drilling, guard duty, cooking, eating, reading, and the various amusements of camp life. The soldier necessarily has much idle time, and therefore seeks every available method to pass it away. Books are very scarce in the company; not that we are not reading men, but we supposed, as is the case, that we should have no place to carry them, and therefore brought none. I do not think there are a dozen in the entire company, and the constant enquiry is, "have you anything to read?" But even if we had them, we would find it impossible to carry them on the march. So, though we feel their want, yet perhaps we are as well off as is now possible.

But it creates an intense eagerness to hear from home, and the copies of the Sentinel are as welcome, and really seem to be general letters from home. It is through its columns, that we receive most of our general news, and hear from the 15<sup>th</sup>. So near us in reality, and yet so distant and so hard to hear from. You, who take the papers and have friends in the regiment, can do them no greater service than to send the papers, after you have read them, to their address. It will partially supply our want of reading matter, and keep us posted besides.

Col. Joslyn is now here, having returned from St. Louis, whither he went to bring on the two companies of cavalry which were detached from the regiment, whether he has been successful or not, only time will tell. We fear that our cavalry is lost to us, and that our splendid regiment, instead of numbering twelve hundred men, is now reduced to one thousand.

It seems hard to submit to such a dismemberment of the regiment, but when the authorities at St. Louis have decreed it, I suppose the case is closed. At least, we shall see, and if at length they should arrive, they may be assured of a most hearty welcome.

Our Chaplain is here, busy passing from tent to tent, cheering the sick, and

making himself acquainted and esteemed by all. Sunday last, we marched outside the lines, and listened to an eloquent discourse by the Elder.

Charles F. Dyke was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of M. F. Ellsworth, and Wilson Lawson appointed 8<sup>th</sup> corporal in place of Geo. Kingsbury, deceased.

A fight has occurred between the 13<sup>th</sup> Ill. and the secesh, in which the Ill. boys, though inferior in numbers, routed their enemies, took 75 prisoners, and brought them as a trophy to Rolla.

Our acquaintances of the Elgin Grays, are all well, and but one of company H is now in the hospital, Hovey Chittenden. He walks out occasionally, and is, I believe doing well.

We now have all the clothing that could be required, having just received good blue cloth army overcoats, and tight fitting satin jackets, in addition to the previous uniform. Also, every two received a rubber blanket to sleep on, which effectually excludes the dampness. To day, though not in clover, we are really in straw, a load of which was brought in for us, and the floor of our tents is now fairly covered with it. We shall sleep well tonight.

Yours truly, H.

### **Expedition against Freeman's forces November 1-9. 1861**

*WS, 11-6-1861*

#### **THE WOODSTOCK RIFLES AT ROLLA FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

Camp 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vol., Rolla, Mo.  
Friday Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1861.

#### **EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL:**

The mild months of Autumn have left us, and we are yet in our tents as usual. With us, the Indian summer has but just begun, and we expect fair, and even warm weather for some time, and with the abundance of clothing, which we now have, we will not really need our barracks, for a month.

Painful rumors come to us from home, concerning our situation, and treatment here, and many are indignant, that matters should be represented in such a light, to our friends and relations. It is true, that we are undergoing those privations, which unavoidably attach to the life of a soldier, and are unable to

secure those conveniences, which insure to a settled home. Many of us have been reared in comparative affluence, and few have experienced the stings of poverty. Is it then at all strange, that a mistaken few, should, in their letters, when wanting those luxuries to which they have been accustomed, murmur to their friends at home, and thus give rise, to those rumors which grieve us, which pain them, which are rumors, and nothing more.

There was a time when our fare was not of the best. On our journey from Aurora to Rolla, and for a few days after, it was very poor, and what has been written in private letters, is perhaps, perfectly applicable to our condition at that time. But journeys and marches are periods when we expect to endure hardships, as the means then needed to obviate them, can not always be at hand. Yet these are idle words, for it is much better to mention what we have, and what we get, and then let others judge, whether of not we are now suffering, with cold and hunger, in this southern latitude of St. Louis.

I have before this mentioned the clothing and food furnished us. Perhaps it may not be amiss to repeat the same.

Our tents are comfortable compared with those of most regiments. Our uniform consists of one wool hat, one cap, one leather stock, two woolen shirts, one loose jacket or blouse, one tight satin jacket, two pair cotton flannel drawers, two pair blue army pants, two pair good woolen socks, one pair sewed shoes, and an excellent army overcoat with cape. Besides these, each man has a woolen blanket, 15 feet long and four wide, weighing nearly six pounds. Also to every two men a good rubber blanket is given, to place under them while sleeping.

The food dealt out to us is the new army ration, as regulated by the last Congress. Thus far it has been for each man daily: 20 ounces of baker's bread or one pound of hard crackers, 20 oz. of fresh beef or 12 oz. of salt pork or bacon, 3 pounds of potatoes per week, and 15 lbs. sugar, 15 lbs. beans, 10 lbs. coffee, and 10 lbs. rice daily to every 100 men, soap, candles, vinegar, and occasionally molasses.

We have a portable iron oven on the ground, costing \$200, which I understand must be paid for by the soldiers. It is manned by bakers from the regiment, and thus we have plenty of soft bread on every other day than Monday, as the bakers do not choose to work on the Sabbath. Now with proper economy this allows each man more than he can eat, or at least more than he should, and surely in reference both to clothing and food, we are much better off than were our parents, the pioneers of Northern Illinois, when first they redeemed that fertile land from the dominion of the savage.

The company is divided into eight irregular messes, varying from 7 to 20 in a mess. Each is provided with a camp kettle, frying pan and coffee pot, besides tin plates, knives, forks, spoons and cups. Many other utensils have been brought by

the boys, and thus you see we have ample facilities for cooking, and you may be assured that much skill will be acquired by us in the rude practice we now have.

By the Sentinel, I notice that an association has been formed in Woodstock to provide additional clothing and bedding for the boys from that place. I do not wish to interfere in the least with the aims of any society, but I believe as far as the Woodstock Rifles are concerned, that any addition to their clothing would be more cumbersome than beneficial. Especially so in regard to outside garments.. Perhaps a few good woolen drawers or woolen socks might not be amiss, and if we stay here during the winter, as I now think we shall, in that case a quilt would be a great convenience to every man. But until it is definitely settled that we are to remain here during the winter, it would be impolitic to send them. Captain Joslyn and others have very sensibly suggested, that if the ladies of Woodstock have anything to give us, that the same may be given to the poor and destitute of our county, who I doubt not are much more needy than we shall ever be while in the service of the United States. I wish to interpose no obstacle to the forwarding of articles to those who ask for them, but let it be distinctly understood that everything a soldier has, and three days rations besides, must on every march be either carried on his back or thrown away. If we remain here, barracks will be erected for us, and if we march, light loads are preferable.

Our drill continues as usual, and we assume more and more the appearance of soldiers. The two companies of cavalry detached from the regiment when at St. Louis, have again joined us. On dress parade we greeted them with three rousing cheers, for once again the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois is the finest regiment in Missouri.

Rolla is in reality an important post. The telegraph from here to St. Louis, is at length completed, and thus we are placed in direct communication with the Eastern States. The place is now held by nearly three thousand troops, and there is no enemy in force near us. The work on the fort is progressing finely, block houses are being erected, and the 75 secesh now there, are kept quite busy at work.

Our pickets are occasionally fired on by the Jayhawkers and Guerillas, a few of whom infest the surrounding country. A couple of days ago a squad of them, near Lebanon, attacked a train of emigrants returning to Springfield, now occupied by Gen. Fremont. As soon as the intelligence reached us, Lt. Col. Joslyn, Capt. Jenks and about sixty of the cavalry, set out for the scene of action, and will, probably, long ere this reaches you, have made the rebels thieves feel the weight of their sabers. Lately the discipline of camp has been much improved. No strangers have been allowed to enter, except with a special pass, and the boys find it much harder to obtain egress from the lines than formerly.

The muster rolls have been made out, in anticipation of our pay, which we expect soon, and yesterday we underwent the inspection customary, before receiving it. The Sutler has at length arrived with his goods, and many of the boys

have made his acquaintance, soon to their cost.

Quite a change has taken place in the company in reference to its officers. The following are the new appointments, Charles F. Dike, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut.; Theodore L. Griffin, 1<sup>st</sup> Sergt.; Merris Briggs, 3d. Sergt.; Myron A. Smith 4<sup>th</sup> Sergt.; Wilson Lawson 7<sup>th</sup> and John Wolfe 8<sup>th</sup> corporal.

Also Geo. D. Greenleaf, has been appointed assistant wagon master, and L. D. Pease commissary sergeant. Good for the boys of company H. I will send you the muster roll in my next, as no correct one has yet been published.

Yours truly,

H.

### **Duty at Rolla, Missouri till January 14, 1862**

The battle of Wilson's Creek, another Union defeat was fought on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Nathaniel Lyon, the commander of the Union forces, was killed, and his army streamed back to Rolla, broken and winded. Joining the 36<sup>th</sup> and other fresh units, it took time to regroup and re-organize. The cavalry companies of the 36<sup>th</sup>, which had preceded the rest of the regiment, arrived in time to evacuate the wounded.

### **Attached to the Department of Missouri till January 1862**

*EG, 11-6-1861*

#### **FROM THE 36th**

The Mo. Democrat says:

At Franklin, Mr. Elliot on Saturday learned from an army officer that word had reached Rolla on Friday that Jeff Thompson with a straggling force of about fifteen hundred men was marching across the southern part of the State to make a junction with Price and McCulloch. On Friday evening Colonel Greusel, of the

36<sup>th</sup> Illinois, started to intercept the aforesaid Jeff taking with him nine hundred picked men of the Rolla Brigade, and a battery of six mountain howitzers, and fifteen days rations. The expedition promises well.

Lieut. Smith, of the Elgin Company writes Capt. Baldwin:

Camp Rolla, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, '61

Dear Captain: -- This has been a very busy day with us, and some cold. We were mustered for "PAY" and an inspection. Our pay rolls go to St. Louis tomorrow morning, will get our pay next week. Our cavalry are now here, and they do look fine and drill very well. A train of supplies left here Monday for Springfield without an escort; got as far as the Gasconade River and have stopped. Are on the defense with an expectation of an attack from the enemy. Their messenger came in last night for help. Seventy five men out of A and B cavalry were detailed to escort them through to Lebanon, (70 miles). They left this morning with five day's rations and no forage. Col. Joslyn, Judge and the negro are with them. It is not expected they will meet with much "secesh," still they may have a fight. It is not known what force the enemy may have in that direction. They may be gone ten days and may not be.

Major Barry is quite unwell – is a little on the mend. Our boys are in the best of condition. Aldrich in the hospital. Nothing of interest at last accounts.

*AB, 11-7-1861*

### THE 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT

On Thursday of last week, Lieut. Col. Joslyn and Capt. Jenks, left Camp Rolla for a two day scout out on the Springfield road, taking with them sixty of Jenks' cavalry and 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Sherer. On the same evening a bearer of important dispatches for Gen. Fremont, arrived at Rolla with an order for an escort to Fremont's head quarters. Col. Greusel gave the bearer of dispatches directions to follow on after Col. Joslyn's command and take them with him to Springfield. At last accounts from Rolla, no word had been heard from them, but it is supposed that they returned yesterday or today, if not detained at Fremont's head quarters.

On Friday evening of last week, Col. Greusel left Rolla with Capt. Smith's cavalry company, 30 men of Capt. Jenk's cavalry under Lieut. Ferre, Capt. Miller's company, and the Bristol company, Capt. Fish, two companies of the Iowa 4<sup>th</sup>, two companies of Col. Phelps' Missouri regiment, and a number of Major Wright's Missouri Cavalry, in all about nine hundred men. He also took with him six

mountain howitzers and ten day's rations. They went south east in the direction of the Arkansas line in pursuit of a body of Jeff. Thompson's army numbering six or eight hundred.

Nothing has been heard of the expedition and great anxiety is felt for its success.

*AB, 11-7-1861*

LETTERS FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT

Camp Rolla, Oct. 18, 1861

DEAR BEACON; -- Things move on quickly in the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment. If the testimony of all the military men who have seen us go through the evolutions are to be believed, it is the best regiment considering the time it has been in service, that has left Illinois or any other State. For the past week detachments from the various companies have been doing duty as picket guard. They have been stationed out from camp in different directions, from five to ten miles, and although perfectly raw in the business, there is not one word of complaint as to the manner in which they perform their duties. They arrested several suspicious characters, and Capt. Pullers men brought in a secession horse.

A gloom has been cast over the entire regiment by the death of Lieut. Edward S. Chappell, of the Elgin Greys, who had been sick since we left St. Louis. Lieut. Chappell had made for himself many friends during the short connection with the regiment, and all regret his early death. A meeting was held last evening at the Colonel's Headquarters, by all the officers of the regiment, at which appropriate resolutions of regret, and condolence to his afflicted family were passed.

The first court martial in our regiment is to be held today. Some of the boys have been in the habit of running the guard every night, for the purpose of committing depredations upon persons living outside the camp, such as stealing or *cramping* geese, chickens, etc. Captains Miller, Fisk and Pierce are members of it from the regiment, and your humble correspondent Judge Advocate. "Intellect will tell." You must excuse this short letter, as the mail is just closing.

Bill.

*AB, 11-7-1861*

Camp Rolla, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, 1861

DEAR BEACON: -- Last Sabbath we enjoyed an old fashioned dinner of baked beans, roast beef and other fixins, which I assure you were quite a treat to us. Mr Daws, with the assistance of others, built a brick oven at the barracks, and for a short time we made good use of it. Saturday evening our dress jackets arrived. We had looked for them a long while, so that when they did come they were doubly welcome. During the past week several of us found time to ride out into the country, and so we concluded to visit a plantation a short distance from the barracks and procure a few apples. The owner had removed to St. Louis, and so we made our business known to the gardener, who presented us with a few, and informed us if we would make up a little sum to treat the negroes with, we might go into the orchard and take all the apples we wanted. The purse was quickly made up, and we followed him into the orchard. He then invited us to walk through the garden, which invitation was gladly accepted. I should judge that there were two acres of ground in the garden, and it is laid out in the most beautiful manner. Paths run in every direction, forming flower beds of different shapes and sizes, which are covered with the most beautiful plants and shrubs, many of which are now in full bloom. The gardener conducted us through the walks, pointing out the most beautiful plants, and giving the name and age of each of the whole collection, as easily as a child would give the names of its brothers and sisters. He then took us to the green house which stood upon one side of the garden. This was a beautiful sight. The house is about 16 x 20 feet and the roof and sides are built of glass. Upon each side, rising about a foot and a half above the ground, and about the same width, is a brick passage way through which the heat is conducted from furnaces on the outside, and thus the room is kept at a proper temperature during the winter months. He informed us that he kept the fire from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April. There is a pump inside which raises water from the cistern with which to water plants. The plants are arranged on shelves rising from the sides to the middle of the room. The shelves are about covered with pots filled with cuttings from plants from the garden. It requires five men all of the summer to keep the garden in order. The gardener is a German and spent six years in his own country to learn his trade. He receives \$40 per month, besides house rent and living for his family. He stated that his employer had over forty slaves; some were let out to his friends and the rest were on the plantation. The plantation consists of over 600 acres in a body. The house in which the owner spends his summer months, is a beautiful brick building four stories high, and extending over a large space of ground. In the front there is a fountain and the garden and yards are

enclosed with a hedge fence, which is trimmed in the best style. Through all of these grounds are large shade and ornamental trees, which serve to make the scene the more attractive. There are quite a number of chestnut trees which were brought from Massachusetts, and some ornamental trees which were brought from Europe. After he had shown us all there was to be seen, we went into the orchard, and, after satisfying our appetites, filled our haversacks with fine apples, and then there were bushels lying upon the ground. We returned to camp in time for supper, and have not yet repented for having passed the afternoon thus pleasantly. I spent one day at St. Louis last week, and went to see the batteries which are to go down the Mississippi river. They are almost square, being 60 feet long and 25 feet wide. The deck is enclosed by plates of iron 6 feet high and 2 feet wide, and about half an inch thick, which are riveted together in a most substantial manner. About midway of the battery are two slide doors, four feet wide, which open each way. Near each end, and upon both sides, are doors two feet square, hung upon hinges, and opening upon the outside, and two doors of the same kind upon each end. These small doors will be used for port holes. Over forty of these batteries are being built. They will be taken down the river by small steam tug boats, which will have a battery attached to each side. These tug boats are about 35 feet long and 18 feet wide in the middle. There are about 15 of these nearly finished. A short distance from where these are constructed is a shot tower. It is built of brick and is about 160 feet high, and thirty feet through at the base. There is a window once in twenty feet as you ascend the tower. The process of manufacturing the shot is somewhat singular. The lead is melted and turned into a sieve at the top of the tower, and passing through drops into the water, the lead assumes a globular form. The size of the shot is regulated by the coarseness of the sieve.

Col. Greusel arrived at St. Louis the latter part of last week, and determined to take his cavalry companies back to Rolla with him. This is the second time he has been after us, and Col. Josly has been up once. We are inclined to think that the "powers to be" began to believe they would be obliged to let us go, in order to get rid of the continued attacks of our persevering officers.

At any rate last Monday we received orders from Brigadier General Curtis, to march immediately with one day's rations. This was what we had been wishing, and hoping for, for the last four weeks, and you may rest assured that we did not have to be told to do so a second time. Everything was got in readiness and all were expecting to go, when we received intelligence that no cars could be procured to take us with our baggage and horses to Rolla. Thus we waited until Thursday, when company A received orders to march Friday morning at 4 o'clock and company B to remain in the barracks for a day or two, at which time they were to follow. We slept but little that night, as it took us until late to pack up, and we were up at two in the morning. We were ready to march in good season, and

arrived in St. Louis before the train was ready for us. After our horses were loaded Col. Greusel managed to obtain cars enough to take both companies, and company B was sent for immediately. They came at last and loaded their horses, and all was ready at about ten o'clock. It had been sprinkling some during the forenoon, and as we started it commenced to rain quite hard, giving some of us an opportunity to try our India rubber blankets which were presented by our friends at home, and brought to us by Mr. Alvin Dorr, of Sugar Grove, who arrived in St. Louis just in time to go on to Rolla with us.

The country from St. Louis to Rolla reminds one of the western part of Massachusetts. It is exceedingly uneven and rocky, and the soil appears to be quite poor a large part of the way. There are some beautiful buildings within ten miles of St. Louis, but the rest of the way they are of very inferior quality. In some places the rocks rise almost perpendicular at the side of the road, to a height of sixty or seventy feet. In a number of places at the side, and near the top of these piles of rock, stones are piled up ten or fifteen feet high in the shape of a flower pot and large trees are growing from the top of them. It is a novel sight and makes one feel quite skittish for it looks as if a little jar would set them loose, when they would come down with irresistible force, crushing everything beneath them. There is one long tunnel on the road cut through solid rock, it is down grade as you enter it, and it looks as though you were going into the ground at an angle of about forty five degrees. We arrived at Rolla safely at 12 o'clock Friday night, and remained on board the cars until morning, when we came up to the camp ground, which is a few rods from the depot. Our carbines, sabers and part of our revolvers are here. We received considerable praise for our fine horses and good look, but we have not forgotten that "handsome is that handsome does."

F. O. W.

*AB, 11-7-1861*

LETTERS FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT

Camp Rolla, Mo.

Oct. 27, 1861

DEAR BEACON: -- We are really blessed with good weather at the present writing. The days are clear, sunshiny and warm, while the nights are cool and bracing – just frosty enough to make our new overcoats a comfortable and beneficial institution, every man in the regiment has been provided with them and we have also received five hundred water proof India-rubber blankets, which makes one to every two men of the infantry. We believe we have been used the

best in the way of clothing, of any regiment that has left the Prairie State; and our boys feel very much like fighting for the government that uses them so well.

Col. Greusel returned from St. Louis night before last bringing with him our cavalry. I say *our* cavalry, for everyone in the regiment feels they have an interest in them. When they came upon the ground, the boys greeted them with three cheers that came near taking the top off. Both men and horses look tip top, and are in strong contrast to the Missouri cavalry that we have seen since we came here. All day yesterday they were busy getting their tents raised and having their arms distributed, and are now ready and anxious for service.

Last night a negro and his wife came into the lines and told the following story, which is fully corroborated by men who know him; he was waiter to the Major of the Irish brigade and was taken prisoner at Lexington. He was sold by his secession owners, and escaped with his wife from his new masters, who were hunting them with blood hounds. He is now in camp and it will take a pretty large force of secession robbers to get him out. Yesterday the order against peddlers on the grounds was carried out for the first time. The office of cleaning them out and keeping the camp clear of them, fell upon your humble correspondent; and you may be sure he preformed his duties with a will, for his suspicions against them have been aroused for some time.

Two members of the rebel General Price's army, who were home on furlough, have been arrested while peddling apples in our camp and are now at work on the fort. I have no confidence in the Union sentiment of the people who will stay at home and let the citizens of another State defend them from a foe. The able bodied men of Missouri who are not in the service of the United States Government, are either secession traitors or sneaking cowards; and I am sorry to say there is a large class of them here to whom one of these epithets may be addressed. I don't know, neither does any other man how long we shall stay here, but this thing I do know; from the Colonels to the cooks, everybody hopes that we shall get marching orders soon. We are weary of this inactive life, living on Uncle Sam without returning him any equivalent. If the secessionists do not come and see us, we desire to make them a visit. Some think we will stay here all winter, and say that we will build barracks, but I hardly believe it. Major Barry, I am sorry to say, has been unwell for several days. Ed. Joslyn is sound as a nut; camp life agrees with him. They are both well liked by the boys, and are very popular officers.

Bill.

Camp Rolla, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, 1861

DEAR BEACON: -- We have some rare wags among the officers of the Fox River Regiment.—Anything that savors of fun or serves to break the monotony of camp life, is seized upon with eager avidity, and woe to the luckless wight who is the butt of their practical jokes. The following is told upon one of their number:

A knot were gathered the other evening anxious for something to turn up, out of which fun might be manufactured, when one of them, an ardent Democrat by the way, and well known in Aurora, picked up a novel, and after reading the name of the author, threw it down contemptuously, exclaiming “Douglas Jerrold! Who wants to read a book written by a nigger?” The crowd burst into a roar of laughter, when he saw that he had made a bull, and *bettered* it by saying, “Well, if he is not a nigger, *he is a d—d abolitionist.*” The loss of buttons that ensued might be imagined; it cannot be described. He had mistaken the celebrated English author for nigger Fred Douglas.

Here is another:

The Captain of one of the companies was sick and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, Bill C. had the company out on battalion drill. It was the first time he had occupied the position, as commander, and as might be expected, he *spread himself*. In one of the maneuvers he managed to get his men into considerable of a snarl, and while attempting to straighten them out, or in his own words, to “form a line that lightning could run down,” the order was given to “march to your quarters.” Bill was still trying to get his command to “left dress,” when Major B. repeated the order, “to your quarters march.” At the same time Captain M. who was acting as a field officer, rode up and told him to go to his quarters. Somewhat confused by the repetition of the same order, and being determined to “know he was in the right before he went ahead,” he exclaimed, “By G-d, I aint going till I know which are my men!” Amid the laugh which followed, the Major retreated to his tent, and Capt. M. galloped off to the left of the battalion, leaving him master of the field. There has, as yet, been no order for a court martial in Lieut. Bill’s case.

Lieut. Col. Joslyn perpetrated another rich one on some of the regimental officers. It was rumored a few days ago that Price was marching on Rolla with twenty thousand men, and there was some panic in consequence. Ed. was talking about it in a crowd of officers, when he said: -- “We will set Buck, (the quartermaster) and Joe (the sutler) at them, and if they can stand one of their *charges* we might as well leave.” The shout that went up showed that the joke was properly appreciated.

One of company B’s boys was up before a court martial on a charge of running the grounds and “cramping” chickens. After one of the witnesses had been examined, the judge advocate asked him if he had any questions to ask the

witness. He straightened up, and said he had one question he would like to ask, if he could have the privilege. He was told to proceed. “*Witness, can you give me a chew of tobacco!*” The gravity of that court martial was completely upset.

Bill.

*AB, 11-7-1861*

### DEATH OF LIEUT. CHAPPELL OF THE 36<sup>th</sup>

The following are the proceedings and resolutions of condolence and respect passed by the men of the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment, after the death of that noble young man and soldier, Lieut. Edward S. Chappell. In the flower of his manhood, and at the commencement of his career as a soldier, has he been cut down. Let his friends remember that each patriot soldier is a candidate for immortal fame; and their resting place will be a sacred spot, to which reverential pilgrimages will be made, and their brave deeds and sacrifices will be immortalized by song and story.

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Head Quarters 36<sup>th</sup> Ill Reg't U. S. V.,  
Camp Rolla, Rolla, Mo., Oct. 1861

At a meeting held by the officers of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Reg't U. S. V., to express their deep felt sorrow and regret at the death of Lieut. Edward S. Chappell, of Co. A., the following proceedings were had. Col. N. Greusel, in the chair, Adjutant Geo. A Willis, Secretary

On motion, the following committee were appointed to draft and report resolutions.

Lieut. Wm. H. Clark,	Company	E	Infantry
“ John Van Pelt,	“	D.	“
“ Sam'l Chapman,“	B.	Cavalry	
“ Geo. Stonex, “		F.	Infantry
“ B. F. Campbell, “	B.	“	

While the committee were out, Capt. W. B. Baldwin, Co. A, made a few appropriate remarks.

Lieut. Wm. H. Clark, of the committee, reported the following resolutions.

Whereas, it has pleased Devine Providence to remove from us by death, our friend and associate, Edward S. Chappell, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Co. A, it is therefore:

Resolved, that we deeply sympathize with the bereaved wife and family of our lamented friend, and hereby tender our sincere and heart felt sympathy.

Resolved, that we the officers of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Reg't U. S. V., will escort the remains of Lieut. Edward S. Chappell to the cars, with our respective commands.

Resolved, that the Secretary of this meeting be instructed to forward a copy of these resolutions to the wife of our departed brother, and a copy be furnished to the several newspapers of Kane Co. Ill. for publication.

N. Greusel, Colonel 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Chairman  
Lt. Geo. A. Willis, Adj't, Secretary.

*AB, 11-14-1861*

#### LETTERS FROM CAMP ROLLA

Camp Rolla, Nov. 7, 1861.

Editors Beacon: -- During the past week Lieut. Col. Joslyn, with a party of our cavalry, have been in Springfield on a scouting excursion, and returned last evening.

Last Friday Col. Greusel, with six hundred men, went south in pursuit of Freeman and Hamilton Lenox, and have not yet returned. In my next I will give you some particulars of both expeditions, but I must be excused now, as it is almost time for the train to leave. About nine, last evening, a special courier came in from Houston, Texas Co., with dispatches from the Col. and news from the boys, among whom are Capt. Miller with his company B, Capt. Smith with his company B cavalry, and a portion of company A cavalry. (Capt. Jenks having been west with Col. Joslyn,) Capt. Fish with company E, Capt. Wood with the Kansas Rangers, and about two hundred men from the 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Regiment.

I have only time to send you a copy of Col. Greusel's proclamation to the Houstonites, and one of Charley Harvey's letters to Adjutant Willis.

#### PROCLAMATION

*To the people of the town of Houston, and County of Texas, in the State of Missouri.*

I have this day placed upon your beautiful Court House, "The Flag of our Union." I leave it in your charge and protection. If taken down by rebel hands, I will return here and pillage every house in the town, owned by secessionists or

those whose sympathies are with rebels. Any outrage hereafter committed upon Union Men or their families, will be returned upon secessionists two fold. All property taken from Union men by rebels in or out of the county, must be returned immediately. I hereby give the rebels ten days to make good all the losses sustained by Union families in Texas County; if this be complied with, peace will be restored to your county. If neglected, the consequences be upon your own heads.

I shall soon return to your county, and see that this proclamation is complied with to the letter.

If you wait for me to execute it, I will do it with a vengeance.

N. Greusel

Col. Commanding Expedition.

Houston, Texas County, Mo., Nov. 5,

1861.

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Head Quarters Secret Expedition,  
Houston, Texas Co., Mo., Nov. 5,

1861.

George: --

Enclosed I send you copy of proclamation, etc. We are having a splendid time, but one of the hardest countries to march over you ever heard of. There were two men killed by some of Capt. Wood's Rangers, yesterday; they chased them through the woods for almost four miles, and could not stop them from running in any other way. Secesh are a mighty scarce article when Union troops are around. We have just heard that there are over five hundred of them five miles from here, and Capt. Wood has gone with five men to thrash them out. It may be our luck to have some "fought" yet. There will be a messenger coming back. Send us a letter and a paper.

Heartily,  
C. M. HARVEY,  
Acting Adjutant,  
Secret Expedition

Col. Greusel is expected in on Saturday, as his command only went prepared with subsistence for ten days.

*EG, 11-20-1861*

THE 36<sup>th</sup>

Addison Keyes, Quartermaster's Sergeant, of the 36<sup>th</sup>, is home in fine spirits. The boys have been visited by the Paymaster, and they feel beautifully. As an evidence of the appreciation of their friends left at home, Mr. Keyes brought some

\$3000 to different parties here. Husbands to their wives, sons to their mothers, and all to their creditors. The thousand and one packages sent by Dennison had arrived, and such a time was never known in camp, as the boys had over those boxes. Dennison was determined to take something to everyone, and he succeeded so well, that they had all things in common, and a high old time it was. Nothing cheers the heart of a soldier like a love token from home.

Capt. Baldwin, Major Barry and wife, Col. Joslyn and wife, and Capt. Joslyn, left St. Louis for Rolla on Saturday last, all well and in good spirits.

Lieut. Chapman, of the Plato Dragoons, arrived home on Saturday. He reports that company in fine health and discipline. Everything works smoothly in the Regiment, among officers and men. Chapman brought home packages of money to many of the families represented in his company. It speaks well for the Plato Dragoons, that they sent home an average of over \$20 each to their friends. We learned that the horses purchased with county orders still belong to the company, the Government having made no offer to purchase them. They are in good condition and drawing good pay. Messrs. Durand and Chapman expect to be able to meet their obligations to the county, and to the individuals of whom they purchased horses. The wheel in its turn pours wealth back upon us. Not less than \$10,000 in gold and Treasury notes, have been brought to this immediate vicinity, within a week. Let us not be frightened at the expense of the war.

Mr. Chapman cannot visit all his friends at their homes, but he will be in Elgin on Saturday next, and will be glad to meet those desirous of seeing him either on business or pleasure.

He will leave for Rolla on Monday, Dec. 2d, and will convey any messages or packages left at his office by Friday previous.

We are glad to see our friends from the camp in such excellent spirits.

There is talk that the Regiment will not remain long at Rolla, but as Gen. Halleck's plans are not yet divulged, it is vain to speculate on the destination of this or any other Regiment.

*AB, 11-21-1861*

#### LETTERS FROM CAMP ROLLA

Rolla, Nov. 10, 1861

Editors Beacon; -- We have been quite busy in this place since I wrote you last. Then a portion of the cavalry were out on a scout, headed by Lieut. Col. Joslyn. The day after, Col. Greusel, with the remainder of the cavalry, sixty men from company B, and fifty men from company E, together with two hundred men

from the 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Regiment, started for the south west on a march. We left Rolla on Friday evening about sunset, and reached Piny Creek, sixteen miles out, about ten o'clock the next morning, where we rested till day break, then marched fifteen miles further and camped till Monday morning when we commenced operations.

The infantry broke up into squads and scoured the country; the Col. took the cavalry and went to Houston, the county seat of Texas County, about sixty five miles from Rolla. The infantry camped that night at Lick Settlement, six miles from where they stayed the night before, having during the day taken a lot of horses, mules, cattle and sheep, from the rebels. We left at each place two cows, and did not touch a single thing in the houses except arms, which was different from the way the same men had served the Unionists in that section, some days before. In many instances they took the last bed quilt and the last mouthful of food, and drove out men, women and children, to shift for themselves as best they could. The next day we cleaned out that neighborhood pretty well. At night, in company with Lieut. Walker of company B, Lieut. Abe Longworth of Morris, and several others, with two native Missourians as guides, I went on a scouting expedition.

Imagine your correspondent upon on old sorrel contraband mare, with a dilapidated saddle, a rope bridal, and a barrel stave answering for a whip and spur, putting her thru her best paces to keep up with the crowd. The figure I cut would have seemed [indicous] on the streets of Aurora. We rode fifty miles out and our prizes footed up 4 prisoners, one an orderly sergeant in a rebel company, a blacksmith who had shod the secessionist's horses all summer, 8 horses, 1 mule, and 24 head of cattle. The next afternoon the Col. came back with several prisoners, one of them, a brigade inspector in the southern army, leaving the cavalry to come another route home. He had also captured the southern mail from which considerable information in regard to their plans was obtained. They had shot two men, and followed Tom Freeman, ex judge of this county, with a gang of three hundred rebels, within 40 miles of the Arkansas line, but without getting a dash at him. He planted the Stars and Stripes on the court house of Houston, and issued a proclamation to the inhabitants of Texas County.

That afternoon we returned to our old camp ground, and the next morning we separated, the 36<sup>th</sup> boys taking one road with the prisoners, and the Iowa 4<sup>th</sup> the other with the stock, now swelled to a large drove. The first day of our homeward march we took some more stock, and camped at night at the residence of Dr. -----, a member of the Missouri Senate. He is now absent with Calib Jackson's Legislature. He has a beautiful place but has taken the precaution to sell or run off his stock. The next morning we started for Rolla, where we arrived in the afternoon, having been absent but one week.

The result of our expedition foots up as follows: 9 prisoners, some 50

horses, about a dozen mules, 200 head of cattle, and a large flock of sheep.

The Col. administered the oath of allegiance to a large number, encouraged the Union men to look up in that region, and has given rebellion its quietus for the present, in the section of the country through which he passed.

When we got home we found Col. Joslyn had returned, having been nearly to Springfield, and taken five rebel horses, but having had nary chance for a brush.

The paymaster was here yesterday, and paid the men up in full to the 31 ult. Every man in the Fox River Regiment is now flush. Tomorrow's mail will take thousands of dollars in treasury notes to the families and friends of the gallant boys in the Fox River Regiment. It is estimated that \$25,000 will be sent home to the Fox River Valley. I understand that it is a settled thing that we are to march soon. The quicker the better,

Bill.

*AB, 11-21-1861*

Camp Rolla, Mo.  
Nov. 11, 1861

Providence seems to favor the soldiers; for the pleasant weather which we have, keeps us in good spirits and health. Although we do not like dust, still we prefer it to the heavy rains which usually fell at this time in the year. Everything goes on finely at Rolla, and the 36<sup>th</sup> are fitting themselves for the work which they will soon have to do. Nothing of any importance has taken place in camp since I last wrote, except the payment of the 36<sup>th</sup>, which took place last Saturday and Sunday. The troops were paid off mostly in U. S. Scrip, which is supposed to be as good as the gold. It was a merry time for the boys and the officers, for once did not have to hear the command, and one excuses which are always offered when we are about to fall into line. They were on hand to a man, and one could not think as he saw them drawn up in line, that the boys in Kane Co. must be few and far between. Since we have been here, the telegraph, between here and St. Louis, has been completed, and is now in operation. The trains on the Iron Mountain Railroad run through to St. Louis every other day. This road is now in the hands of Uncle Sam and is used for the purpose of transporting troops and supplies. Mr. Joel Jenks, from Aurora, arrived here last Friday, bringing with him many tokens of friendship from those whom we have left at home. Would that we were situated so that we could return these favors. There are quite a number of ladies in camp now, and their presence is highly appreciated by the sick, to whose wants they continually administer. Mrs. Greusel, Mrs. Lyon, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Buck, Mrs. H.

B. Baldwin, and Mrs. Pierce, are now here, and I believe will remain with the regiment, while it stays at Rolla. We have Devine service every Sabbath, and all are required to attend.

\* \* \* \* \*

Wednesday morning we left Houston for Spring Valley, where we heard that Col. Freeman was encamped. We discovered the spot where he had encamped, but learned that he had gone to Currant River Valley, a distance of about fifteen miles. We passed out of the valley and encamped for the night. Next morning we went on, – arrived at Currant River Valley about 2 P.M. and were informed that Freeman was within two miles of us. Capt. Wood took a guide, to lead us to the camp, and made everything ready to attack them, but when he had got within about a half mile of the spot, we learned that he had gone to Salem, with nearly four hundred men. We immediately turned and started in pursuit, not stopping for rest or dinner. When within some twelve miles of Salem, we halted for supper and rest. In the evening, a man with a team came past the picket, on the road to Salem, they took his pistol from him, but returned it when they came in. They looked at the number, however, and it was found to have been stolen from one of Capt. Wood's men, while at Salem some time since. It was not known, however, until after he was gone, and then, two men were detailed to go and take the pistol. As they came up and commanded him to halt, he commenced firing at them. They had it back and forth, until he was shot in the neck and fell to the ground; while they were catching the team, however, he made his escape. All was now confusion in camp. Although nearly two miles off, the shots were heard distinctly, and it was supposed that the pickets had been fired on. The order was given to saddle up, and in five minutes they were in the ranks, and all galloped to the scene of action. It was an exciting time for a few moments. During all this, Lieut. Sherer lay upon a bed sick, and Lieut. Ferre took command of company A, but Sam assured us that should he hear any firing he should mount his horse and engage in the contest. As it was a false alarm, we returned to camp, where we remained a few moments, and then started for Salem, where we arrived at four A.M., and were glad to get a few moments sleep.

We arrived at Rolla safely next day. In the scout two rebels were killed, and also one shot in the neck; two Captains, one Sergeant, and nine others were taken and brought to Rolla, with a large number of horses, mules, cattle and sheep; also three good wagons.

F. O. W.

Camp Rolla, Nov. 16, 1861

Editors Beacon: -- Being at leisure this afternoon, and thinking that possibly some of your many readers would like to learn from the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment, I have concluded to occupy a few moments in writing them some of the doings and sayings in camp.

In the first place, allow me to inform you that our regiment is in excellent condition. I believe that it is the best drilled, best clothed, and the healthiest regiment now in the volunteer service. I know that it is the best officered, and the most contented regiment that has ever been stationed at Rolla. I know it, because everybody here tells me so. We have been stationed here two months, and have but four men in the guard house for drunkenness. Of course much of the good record is to be attributed to the good discipline which is constantly enforced by our officers. The balance, perhaps a large half, is to be credited to the natural, good, honest, and sober inclinations of the men themselves. A large majority of the privates in the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment are gentlemen in every sense of the word. The most of them are fully competent, and would do honor to almost any sphere or position in society. I am satisfied that a truer, and nobler set of hearts never beat in the same number of breasts. There can be no doubt, in any reasonable mind, but that these men only volunteered because their country actually required and demanded their services. Consequently they are fully prepared and determined to comply with all the necessary hardships and deprivations of camp life. I am most happy to assure you that they are doing it like soldiers, without a murmur. There can be no doubt that the boys have been particularly fortunate, in the selection of their officers. I think you will agree with me, when I have informed you that we have not had more than two commissioned officers intoxicated since we went into camp. I shall not claim that we are likely to come out of the volunteer service any better men or Christians than we entered it, but am only informing you how well we have behaved thus far.

Our regiment is fast becoming perfected in drill, both in marching and the manual of arms. Colonel Greusel is just the man for the place he now occupies. He is the very embodiment of industry and sobriety, and is the best military man that I have seen since the commencement of the war. He is strict, decided, but gentlemanly in all his intercourse with officers and men. They all respect him as a man, and admire him as an officer and commander. He is the only man that can lead or command this regiment. This sentiment is decidedly unanimous here with both officers and men. There is no other equally decided opinion and determination here, and that is that the soldiers will run this regiment.

The Colonel is fully sustained by his competent and gentlemanly staff, Lieut. Col. Joslyn and Major Barry. I do not think that there has a single

unpleasant thought entered either of these officers heads concerning the other. They certainly are a happy trio Ed is a brick. You know Ed? He has a peculiar faculty of pleasing the boys. Still I don't think he would make as good a military leader as Col. Greusel. Ed rides like thunder, says mighty sharp things, but still he camps with the balance at night. Major Barry is the prince of good fellows. There can no man have any difficulty with the Major, unless he has it all by himself. The Major acts as a general peacemaker, and I cannot imagine how he ever succeeded as a Lawyer. He is sustaining himself as Major of this regiment to the entire satisfaction of everybody. Our cavalry companies are prospering splendidly. There has been some little difficulty between the Captain of company B cavalry and his boys. What the real cause is, I cannot tell. The general opinion is that Captain Smith will resign. Both companies are under the command of Captain Jenks, at present. He is respected by all the regiment and much admired by his own company. Jenks does military just as he paints and does everything else. He does it because he loves it, and therefore does it well. His company is well drilled, and is the pride of the regiment.

Captain Miller and his company are well and doing well. Sile is the same old Sile, and is sustaining the peculiar dignity of the Miller family, even here in the army. Sile was born too honest to do any wrong. If we were not liberally supplied with chaplains in the army, I should try to get Sile to do my praying; but as the army regulations make ample provisions for all these things, I have not applied.

I wish I could tell you all about the boys. There are many characters in the regiment, and perhaps the most original among them is Lieut. Bill Clark, of company E, formerly editor of the Kendall County Clarion. I do really believe that Clark is the sharpest man in the business. If you could have seen him on his two year old black steed, when he returned from the Texas County expedition, you would have seen him in all his glory. The colt was a genuine mustang crippled on one side and spavined on the other and had been presented to Clark by some kindhearted old lady of Texas County, on account of his size. Clark admires his colt and came into camp singing 'I am lord of all I survey.'" etc. I do not know what he intends doing with his colt, though he has talked of sending it to America on Chaplain Lyon's underground railroad. I must close this by informing you that Wyman's Brigade is just returning from Springfield. Some of the boys have already arrived. They say that Sigel and his men will be here tomorrow. What the next move will be, I cannot tell, possibly something else. The health of our regiment is good, only six men in the hospital, those nearly well.

Send us Beacons, and Oblige.

Tattle Tale.

*AB, 11-28-1861*

## LETTER FROM ST. LOUIS

Friend Bangs: -- Believing at least that a poor letter, even from these parts, and from a friend, will be acceptable, I undertake the task of writing, not a letter, but an apology for one.

The great subjects talked of, as well as written about here, are the success of our fleet sent south, and the removal of General John Charles Fremont; and last, though not least, the returning of the army from south western Missouri. And I do not know as I can do better than write about the same subjects, and tell you the opinions here.

First, here as elsewhere throughout the North, the success of our southern fleet was received with joy by all; and but one opinion prevails, which is, that the administration ought to follow up with another very soon, and take possession of Pensacola and other important points upon the Gulf. It is believed here that a few more such victories would soon end the war; and all pray, and that fervently, who are loyal, throughout this State, that this war may speedily terminate; and they have reason for such prayers, as I will endeavor to show.

The people of this city are hoping to soon see the movement down the Mississippi River, so long talked of, commence. They are anxious that this huge channel of commerce may soon be opened again. And the opinion here, which I consider a good one, is, that it should commence at New Orleans and Memphis at the same time, so as to divide as much as possible the rebel forces, and cause less blood shed.

The removal of Gen'l Fremont took all by surprise; the thing had been so long talked of but no action taken, that it was generally supposed he would remain, certainly until he had fought at least one battle; and that one battle it was supposed would be at or near Springfield, as the reports from his army in advance placed the enemy there, and he made great preparations to meet them; but as usual, when he arrived where the enemy were, they were not there. When he arrived at Springfield, as you have been informed ere this, the enemy were at Cassville, forty miles away. So instead of fighting General Sterling Price, he enters into what General Hunter believed to be a great mistake, in the shape of the joint Price and Fremont proclamation, which you have likely read before this. That proclamation was at first received by the citizens of south western Missouri with delight, and when Gen. Hunter refused to recognize it, many were frightened, and at once left

their homes with what little they had; but the reason of the Gen. for rejecting it, has in a great measure satisfied the people of the evils which would result from it.

As to the stories of officers resigning and soldiers laying down their arms, and threatening to return home when Fremont was superceded, all are false. Never was there a better feeling toward any man than that expressed toward Hunter. The visits and congratulations of officers', and the expressions of the men were all in favor of Hunter. In our march all had learned to respect General Hunter, and to consider him a true military man. It is true Fremont did do a vast amount of labor while here at St. Louis, which was of great benefit to the Government. Few men could have performed the same amount of labor with the same means and in the same time, with the opposition that was continually waged against him. Still, in the field, nearly all believe he did not fill the bill. That he was sincere, that he tried to do, to the best of his judgment, no one doubts; but they do think that judgment wrong at many important times. Again, it is charged that frauds too numerous to mention, have been committed under his administration, and that he was knowing of them in many instances of contractors. But I am credibly informed by an officer in this city; who should know, that John C. Fremont never recommended any man as a suitable man to let a contract to.

As to the returning of the Federal army from south western Missouri, many are filled with fears on account of this movement; some fears are entertained that Price will follow back again and take possession of the better counties near the Missouri River. In his retreat south, his army is steadily decreasing in numbers, but should he return there is no doubt he would be reinforced before reaching the Missouri River, by at least 20,000 men. Fight within the State they seem willing to do, but to go out of the State it appears they are in no wise inclined. I saw a gentleman, a resident of Neosha, Newton County, this State, who has come here because he dare remain at home no longer. He informs me that Gen. Price and his army are near that place, and he thinks they will winter thereabouts or go into Arkansas. I learn from him many things which agree with the reports of Fremont's flag of truce, concerning the condition of Price's army. This gentleman says that many of them are barefoot, and cannot get shoes, and all are wretchedly ragged; that they plunder from friend and foe everything wearable or eatable; that they even take the carpets, when they find such an article, and cut them up for blankets; that their path beyond Springfield is completely desolated, as indeed the entire State is. It is reported that beyond Springfield Price is burning the grain and houses of all loyal men, as much, I should judge, to his own detriment now as to the army of the Union, which is now all upon the different railroad lines leading from St. Louis, and within reach of provisions necessary for their support.

So far as I have been through this State it has been very rough, and in comparison with Illinois, "nowhere." Heavy timber, very hilly and rough, and

stony, with scarcely any soil to appearance; but I suppose like Vermont, corn grows from rocks; in fact, in my humble opinion, the ground is hardly worth fighting for, and nothing but the principles for which we are contending would content me to remain in or strike a blow in this State. Everywhere upon our march a complete desolation was marked, farms deserted and their crops left for the army worm to devour, which it has done most thoroughly, I can assure you. Villages which six months since were thriving and doing a fine country business, are now nearly deserted, and the windows in almost every house and store are broken out, giving the towns more appearance of Irish settlements after a row, than anything civilized; and so throughout the country. If peace were declared tomorrow, and both armies leave the field, ten years would not place Missouri where it was six months ago. This being true of this State, how must it be in the more southern States when this war does close? "Who can tell what the end may be," is an expression we hear daily.

Soldier.

*AB, 11-28-1861*

LETTERS FROM CAMP ROLLA

Camp Rolla, Mo.,  
Nov. 19, 1861

Dear Beacon: -- Military matters are very lively at this place. A portion of the Grand Western Army, which has been at Springfield, is either here or on the way, and expectation is on the *qui vive* to know what it is going to do now. Col. Wyman's regiment, the 13<sup>th</sup>, arrived on Saturday, and I learned that Sigel's and Ashboth's Brigades will be here in a day or two. Whether they will go into winter quarters or make a portion of the invading force down the Mississippi, are the question, which no one that I have heard talk about it, can answer. Our boys are anxious to get a chance to "fight mit Sigel," as they think then they will have something to do. We shall probably know more about our destination, in a day or two, when the different commands all arrive. One thing I think, is certain; we shall

not winter here, as everything indicates that we shall be called upon to “fold up sticks” soon. Other regiments are building barracks, and getting ready for cold weather, while we keep everything in place for a day’s notice to move.

The health of the regiment is good; there has been several cases of the measles in some of the companies, but most of them very light. I visited the hospital yesterday and found but five patients there, and none of them sick enough to be dangerous. A little son of Joel Jenks, of your place, died of typhoid fever, night before last. His father was with him during his sickness, and will take his remains with him to Aurora, today.

There was a large sale of contraband and condemned property, at the Government stables on Saturday. The most of it went very cheap. Horses went at from \$5 to \$40 apiece, and cattle still cheaper.

The cavalry is doing lots of work; nearly every day they are out on scouts, in addition to their performing the duties of picket guard. Yesterday, a detachment of them came in with some forty prisoners; among them some notorious secesh horse thieves. In the afternoon they went out again with three days’ rations; nobody will know where they are gone till they get back. Captain Gardner, of the 13<sup>th</sup>, visited us yesterday; he reports everything all right in his company. Government is doing a great deal of work here; building store houses, bakery, stables, &c. It is evidently designed to hold this post at all hazards, while the war lasts.

I see by the papers that there is a great deal of excitement in the army over Fremont’s removal. I must say that it is not so here. I have heard but one man belonging to the army say anything against it, and that was an officer on his staff. The men of our regiment at least, are fighting for our country, and not for an individual; and if they will let us fight, we do not care so much who commands. There is no excitement about it here, I can assure you.

Yours,

Bill.

*WS, 12-4-1861*

FROM MISSOURI  
THE WOODSTOCK RIFLES AT ROLLA  
FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Camp 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vol., Rolla, Mo.  
Thursday Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL:

For the last few days the weather has been quite cold, and our residence in tents quite uncomfortable. Most of the boys have built rude fireplaces in their tents, which, when they do not smoke, fill the places of stoves quite well. Today

the sun shines brightly, and it now seems as if we shall really enjoy these last days of Autumn.

There are more than seventy cases of measles in the regiment, of which Co. H. has eight. Many of them are recovering very slowly, and yet I think they will all be well in a couple of weeks. Though many cases have been severe, yet we have lost none from this disease.

At present our town presents a very busy appearance. Within the last few days, the divisions of Sigel and Asboth, including Wyman's brigade, have arrived from Springfield, and are now encamped in the vicinity. At least fifteen thousand men are here concentrated, awaiting their orders, whether to again chase back the rebel hordes, now said to be a second time on their march to the north, threatening Sedalia, or to take part in the grand movement, so long maturing, in which we hope soon to see our armies descending the Mississippi, menacing the cities of Memphis and New Orleans.

Standing on one of our high bluffs, a beautiful prospect is opened to the eye. It is one which, in former and more peaceful times seldom greeted an American vision. One which I hope will never in the future be seen on Missouri soil. A camp of fifteen thousand men, lining the hillsides away to the westward, for at least a mile, surrounded with its stragglers, the twice desolate Union families of Missouri. I cannot fully describe their privations for I have never experienced them. After having for months submitted to the ravages of a plundering foe, they are now compelled to flee their homes, with the little left them by their merciless enemies. And all this they have suffered simply for an unwavering devotion to the Stars and Stripes. It was stated a day or two since, in the Rolla Express, that the post commissary, daily issued no less than fifty thousand rations. Perhaps this may have been an extravagant estimate, but certain it is, that there is a vast number of refugees now with us, so utterly destitute, both of clothing and food, that the Government has been obliged to extend to them its helping hand, and supply their wants. You may talk of your country poor, of the hardships of a soldier's life, but more than all, are the fleeing families of Missouri, in actual want, and many of our soldiers, instead of carrying their surplus rations back to the commissary, are generously giving them to those people, who were once happy and prosperous, now without a home. Years must elapse, before Missouri can recover from the baleful effects of this fratricidal war, for nearly half of her territory has been so desolated, and her best citizens have fled to other States

Most of our officers have received their commissions, and the regiment is fully sustaining its reputation of being the finest in the State. Officers and privates, from the other regiments in the vicinity unanimously concur in avowing ours to be the best drilled, and best equipped body of troops, which they have yet seen. Much credit belongs to our able officers, for the attainment of this perfection, but it must

ever be recollected, that the bone and sinew of our regiment, is composed of the very best material.

Our drill continues as usual, and on Sunday we are, if I may be allowed to quote from a neighboring newspaper, "obliged to attend church regularly," which obligation, considered as an obligation, and not as an act of piety, is exceedingly irksome to many. It was said the other day, that the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment turned out to church with greater unanimity, than any other within the speaker's knowledge. But a companion quaintly remarked to me, "How curious it was to see the soldiers of Illinois, not of will, but on compulsion, march four abreast along the beautiful pathway to heaven, to the tune of the Red, White and Blue, seemingly as if to worship God but form and rule, and not in the pure simplicity of a childlike heart." I turned away, and thought that this was a war for liberty. Not merely liberty of speech and action, that political liberty, which permits all to do as they please, so long as they interfere with no other man's rights, but also liberty of conscience, that latest born of human rights, which permits every man to worship God as he pleases, and freely express his own opinions on every religious question. The Sabbath is the day of rest, and thus it is, that the boys grumble a great deal when they are required to attend church, as a duty, and not as a pleasure, and I really fear that when the wars are over, and they return to their homes, they will then by habit await, the tap of the drum to summon them to divine worship.

Justly is the doctrine of religious liberty admitted in the army regulations, which permit the Catholic, the Protestant, and the Infidel, alike to stand on equal footing, while in the service of our Republican Government, allowing religious freedom to all, and compelling none to accept the doctrines or attend the services of another. But today is Thanksgiving, let us be thankful.

Various reports are current, concerning our future destination, and but one thing is certain, that is, we are now here and there is little, yes very little prospect of our speedy removal.

Yours,

H.

*WS, 12-4-1861*

Another member of the "Rifles," writes:

Camp Rolla, Mo., Nov. 28, 1861.

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL:

Although not a regular correspondent for any paper, an article published a

week or two since, has induced me to write you a few lines. The sum and substance of the article to which I refer is this:

“From the fearful extent that swearing is engaged in by the soldiers of the 36<sup>th</sup> Reg’t of Ill. Vol., should they live to go home, they will be entirely unfit to enter civilized society again.”

Now is not this encouraging to those patriotic and pious mothers, fathers, sisters, and other friends, who have willingly given up the loved society of many of their dearest friends, coming, as it does, from Rev. Mr. Lyon, Chaplain of the Regiment. It strikes me very forcibly that, when engaged in fighting our country’s battles, we are not going to be so polluted and steeped in vice and iniquity, as to be unfit to meet our own friends, should the God of battles permit us to survive the struggle in which we are engaged, and in which we are willing to shed our best heart’s blood. I doubt if any army was ever more free from this vice, and certainly I have seen swearing carried to a more fearful extent, even in the sainted town of Woodstock, where churches and ministers are more plenty than here.

Most respectfully, K.

*EG, 12-5-1861*

#### COL. GREUSEL

It was rumored in the camp of the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois that Col. N. Greusel was about to resign. Resolution from all the officers in the camp, urging him to stay, were handed him, and the Col. responded in a few brief words, assuring the men that he could not withstand the unanimous appeal, and therefore was determined to live with them.

--*Chi. Jour.*

*AB, 12-5-1861*

#### LETTERS FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT

Rolla, Nov. 28, 1861

Dear Beacon: -- Our fall winds and rains have commenced. We have no cause to complain, however, for ever since we have been here, until now, we had as fine weather as we could ask for, and better than we could reasonably expect. Monday

morning we received the sad news of the death of George Jenks, who had been sick in the hospital. His disease was the typhoid fever. Death, indeed, “loves a shining mark.” He bore his suffering patiently and expected to the last that he was to return on next train, but those earthly hopes were never to be realized, and while hope yet existed within his bosom angels gathered softly around his pillow, until the final struggle was over, and then with his grateful spirit in their midst, they winged their way to a better land. George had made many friends in the regiment, and there were many sad hearts as we saw his remains removed to the train which was to bear them to a bereaved mother.

There is but little sickness in the camp at the present time. I believe that there are several cases of measles, but they are doing well.

The 36<sup>th</sup> was paid off a week ago last Saturday. Since that time over twelve thousand dollars have been sent to Kane and adjoining counties by the soldiers. It is a fact worthy of notice, that out of the twelve hundred men, of which this regiment is composed, there were only about fifteen but what could sign their own names. The regiment received the highest praise from the paymaster, who said repeatedly, that he had never seen a more noble looking or better behaved set of men in his life. The officers and privates of the 36<sup>th</sup> are gaining an excellent reputation throughout the country wherever they are known.

There is plenty of business for the cavalry now. They do not know when their day's work is done, for whether at home or away, they are liable to receive orders to saddle up at any time in the night or day. They require from twenty to twenty five men to be sent out on picket guard every day. This is quite pleasant business when we have good weather, but now that it is growing cold and raining, it will be quite severe, as we have no shelter for day or night. We have received a supply of India rubber blankets which are very necessary for those on guard. One would be surprised to notice the amount of dampness that rises from the ground during the night. The side of the rubber blanket which is next to the ground is completely covered with drops of water. Were a woolen blanket in the same place the moisture would arise and one would be likely to take a severe cold while sleeping. No one can pass outside of the pickets, who are stationed from two to seven miles from Rolla, without a pass signed by Colonel Dodge, who commands this post. Written passes are good for one day only, and are taken up by the guard; but printed ones are not taken up and will pass the bearer at any time. We often enjoy the hospitalities of citizens living near our stations, who regard us as the preservers of their lives and property. If any suspicious persons are seen, they never fail to inform us, and they only feel secure while the guards are at their station.

Generals Seigel, Wyman and Asboth are now in Rolla, with their commands. There are now here about 10,000 men in all. Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> Ill.

received new tents. They expect to receive new uniforms before they leave Rolla. They are now under marching orders, but as they have received sealed orders it is not known where they are going. It has been reported that we would be joined to the brigade, but I hear from good authority that he (Wyman) does not rank as Brigadier General, if he did he would have taken command of this post after he arrived here. Wyman, Seigel and Col. Greusel are now in St. Louis to learn in regard to future movements. It is expected that they will return by the next train. Hundreds of families left their homes when our troops left Springfield, and are going through to Illinois, Indiana and Michigan; they are taking everything that they can as there is no longer any protection for their property. They state that Price, in his retreat toward Arkansas, burned all of the houses and barns, and all the forage, except that which he wanted for his own use on his retreat, for thirty miles each way on his route. They say it is a sickening sight to behold. Those who are not taken prisoners are left entirely destitute, not having teams or wagons sufficient to emigrate with. Those who came this way state that they had just got their farms in such a condition that they could live comfortable, and now they are obliged to leave – many of them never expecting to go back again. The cold weather has now come on and they must suffer terribly on their journey, and when they arrived at their place of destination, some of them have neither money nor friends to support them during the winter.

Price is now returning to Springfield, and some of his men are already there. Upon any forward movement of our troops they will immediately leave. It is impossible to meet them in battle unless they have about five or ten to one and the advantage of position besides. A whole company will disband and become citizens with a few moments warning, and when you meet them they are traveling to this or that place on particular business. They are perfectly acquainted with this country; will secret themselves at any time in a few moments where we would not think to look for them.

Col. Joslyn was serenaded last Thursday evening by the band of the 35<sup>th</sup> Ill. regiment. They played beautifully and we would gladly be awakened from our sleep every night by such music. The 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Regiment have nearly completed their barracks. They are log buildings, and are large enough to accommodate two companies. The cook rooms are in the rear of the barracks, and the guard house is a short distance in front. This regiment is equipped the same as the infantry, except that their overcoats are black instead of blue. There are so many cavalry and team horses at this post now, that they are obliged to run extra trains for transporting forage. The Government has a large amount of stores now at Rolla, and each train brings in fresh supply. The regular train comes in every other day and arrives here usually at about eight o'clock P.M. This is the train which brings our mail. The work on the fort progresses slowly at the present time. It is

performed principally by secesh prisoners who are under charge of Col. Phelps. Mr. Harrison still officiates as engineer. The land for a long distance around has been cleared of fire wood since Col. Wyman first came here. The boys are all becoming very anxious to leave Rolla. They want to go south and fight if there is any fighting to do. They say that in the spring it was said we could go south until the winter, and now it is said we must go into barracks and wait until spring. They feel that:

“Time never lingers – moves never slow.”

And they want to “work while the day lasts.” I hear men of experience say, that inactivity will ruin a good regiment sooner than any other thing, and if such is the case I hope the 36<sup>th</sup> will not go into barracks for the winter. If there is work in old Kentuck, I hope we shall have a hand in.

Some of the boys complain because they do not receive copies of the Beacon. Do not fail to send it, it is a very welcome visitor.

F. O. W.

*EG, 12-12-1861*

## OUR REGIMENTS

The 52d, Col. Wilson's, has gone to St. Joseph, Missouri, where they will spend the winter. Price seems to have frightened Halleck out of the idea of going down the river and so our brave soldiers must be distributed over Missouri to protect a people who will not protect themselves.

The 36<sup>th</sup> was still at Rolla quarreling among themselves, as there is no enemy to test their fighting qualities. Col. Greusel has removed I. N. Buck from the Quartermastership, and this remands Addison Keyes and our other boys to the ranks.

Buck, as we should expect, dies hard, and the officers are in quite a little muss. If Price and McCulloch would appear before Rolla with 30,000 men, it would be a great blessing to our troops. A raw army, every one of which can read and write, should be kept fighting like fury all the time.

*EG, 12-18-1861*

FROM THE THIRTY SIXTH REGIMENT

Headquarters, U. S. V.  
Rolla, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 1861

Dear Sir: -- As it has been some time since I have seen anything direct from the 36<sup>th</sup> in the columns of the "*Gazette*" I thought having some spare time this morning, I would indite a few lines relative to our condition at the present time, and our prospects for the future. Although stern winter is upon us, yet we are living in tents suffering with cold. To be sure, the winter is somewhat milder than with you in a more northern climate, yet we fancy there has been weather here, in which barracks or buildings of some kind, would be far more comfortable than these small airy tents. I understand the same orders were sent to this regiment relative to building barracks, and at the same time they were to the Iowa 4<sup>th</sup>, who are encamped next to us; yet they have theirs completed and are living in them, and have been for some weeks, whilst nothing has been done towards providing us winter quarters; consequently the boys have to go cold unless they purchase their own stoves, which most in our company have done paying from ten to twenty dollars for the smallest size cook stoves; and of course should we leave here soon, they must lose them or sell them for a mere song as they cannot get them transported. But the probability is that we shall remain here for a month to come, if not longer, as there is a court martial in session which concerns some of our officers, and undoubtedly it will take a month or perhaps two to settle it. We have thus far been highly blessed by Him who holds our lives in His hands, as only four or five in our regiment have been called to that bourne from whence no traveler returns, yet the number of the sick is daily increasing, owing to our exposed condition. Many are having the measles – indeed it has passed pretty extensively through the camp – others are suffering with fever, and nearly all have had colds, and such coughing as constantly greets our ears is perfectly awful. But the hand of our Master seems to be heavily laid upon the 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa, for they bear someone to the silent tomb every day. Indeed, as I am writing I hear the solemn music of the band playing the funeral dirge of some poor "soldier boy" who never again can gladden home with his presence. How some poor mother's heart must bleed when she hears that her son, is gone, and that he died in a strange land, away from home and all its endearments, where she could not close his eyes or stand near to receive his last word. Last Sunday several died in the post hospital, and nearly every day four or five are carried to the tomb of the silent dead from there. None but He "who

knoweth all things” can tell the amount of suffering this war is causing.

Keyes got back alright and brought back numberless little bundles and missives to the “boys” which caused us joy, inasmuch as it showed we still held a place in the memory of friends there. A few days after his arrival we welcomed Lieut. Chapman, Co., B, cavalry, and he, too, was loaded with bundles and letters to us and had of course numberless questions to answer. The boys in his company are doing good service, as they are engaged in scouting a good share of the time. Last Sunday night forty of them commanded by Lieut. Durand were called out about nine o’clock, and attended by a guide who had been taken prisoner the day before, and whom they obliged to show them, they succeeded in catching six notorious “secesh” who had been marauding and plundering successfully for sometime, and only the day before had chased and driven in our pickets. They rode all night and brought them in early in the morning. They (the prisoners) were well armed and rode splendid horses, and were very intellectual men. Quite a laughable incident occurred in which Lieut. Durand, being a very tender hearted man, came very near losing one of the men. It was in this way: The first home he went to for one of them, the woman was very sick and begged so hard to have her husband left that he nearly consented to her persuasion; but upon going to the next and finding the same game played, and so on to the third, he “smelt a rat” and took them all, and found the women got well so exceedingly quick that they could follow him to the door, heaping all manner of abuse upon his head.

Captain Smith still reports himself as commander of this company and will not resign, although he has received a petition signed by all the company requesting him to do so. But, he knows if he does so he can never hold another commission, so he is waiting to get a transfer to some other regiment, when he finds a place to please him. But, it keeps the company in a perfect stew, as they want to know who to look to as Captain – at present Lieutenants Chapman and Durand command them and are unanimously liked by the boys of the company.

In company with Lieut. Durand and several others, I visited a large cave which is some five miles from here. It is a splendid sight and at its opening, quite large. We drove our horses in some eight or ten rods, then had to dismount and light candles, and cautiously follow each other single file, we proceeded in this way into the bowels of the earth somewhat near a half mile. I have heard and read of caves, but never formed any adequate idea of one. While standing gazing at its beauties, I was lost in wonder and surprise. If I had the descriptive powers of some of the wise sages of yore, I would like to describe its beauties; but for a person possessed of as few traits as your humble servant, it is impossible to do it justice. Suffice it to say that none can realize without seeing it.

We have had one slight fall of snow, yet it all disappeared the next day after its advent beneath the warm rays of the sun. For the past week until today, it has

been glorious weather, warm and spring like – but today makes us gather closely around the stove.

We are now blessed with the receipt of a mail every day, and you may be assured we value it highly.

Ed. and Major, with their wives are very comfortably situated, and enjoy camp life very well. Capt. Baldwin is also improving in health every day. Our Elgin boys are all well, and having got a stove, feel perfectly reconciled to anything, but seeing the large list of marriages published weekly in the “Gazette,” are beginning to think that the young ladies are all going to marry before their return; yet we think, now that we have got pretty well accustomed to being without them, we might even be reconciled to that.

The “Gazette” is very popular and anxiously looked for, as it contains news from home and friends.

Excuse haste, and next time I hope to give further particulars as regards our future.

Yours,

Anon.

*EG, 12-18-1861*

COL. GREUSEL

We understand that Col. Greusel is under arrest on a charge of defrauding the Government. The court martial is in session and we shall soon see who in the 36<sup>th</sup> is honest.

*WS, 12-18-1861*

FROM MISSOURI  
THE WOODSTOCK RIFLES AT ROLLA  
FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Camp 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vol., Rolla, Mo.  
Thursday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL:

The months of actual winter are now upon us. November has become a time past, and already we have encountered and survived the first snow storm of the present season. It has been noticed for a long time, that whenever Company H is on guard the weather is most unfavorable. Usually on such occasions, the rain comes pouring down at intervals throughout the day, but on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst., when we were awakened from sleep by the quick notes of the reveille, we looked out and found the ground covered with a carpet of white, and the weather was cold and disagreeable. All this was more than we were accustomed to. The previous day was fine, and this sudden change nearly convinced us that the very elements were at war with our company, and determined to wreak on us their displeasure, whenever a suitable occasion offers.

But it was announced that the guard around the camp would be discontinued on account of the inclemency of the weather, and all were forbidden to leave the grounds, unless provided with a pass as usually required.

This measure was carried into effect, but about noon it became apparent from the number of reeling inebriates brought in by the patrol, that the prohibition was disregarded, and hence we had to turn out and reestablish the guard, but at 9 p.m. it was again removed, and we turned in for the night.

This seeming indifference in relation to the guard is easily accounted for, when we reflect: That no enemy is near us, and the only use of the guard, at present, is to prevent the men from straggling from the lines, and as a measure of instruction, and Captain Joslyn is not the man to see his company stand guard in very inclement weather, for the sake of mere discipline and nothing else. The snow we had was a transient visitor. In a couple of days it had all vanished, and since then we have had some fine weather as one could ask for. Even in December, the sun has shown brightly, and so warmly that our coats were really uncomfortable. But the weather is very changeable. Today it is quite cold, and as tomorrow is our usual guard day, I expect a storm.

Our regiment has been severely attacked by measles, but otherwise the general health is good. From this disease four deaths have occurred, all in company C. Two brothers, Shearer by name, joined that company only a few months since, and now they are both tenants of a grave. How soon they left us. How soon their patriotic hearts have ceased to beat, their fond aspirations quelled, and they summoned from earth. They were our neighbors, strangers, yet united to

us in the common pursuit of one object, the subjugation of our nation's enemies. Green be the sod above their graves, and let the soil in which they sleep be Union soil! The Rolla church yard is situated upon a little eminence about half a mile from our camp, and to it are brought all the dead from the numerous regiments in the vicinity. Seldom does a day pass by, when we cannot hear the notes of the dead march, as the soldiers bear some comrade to his grave, and sometimes, they greet us at morn, at noon, and at eve. And yet, with all these evidences, before our eyes teaching us how uncertain is life, and how mutable are earthly things, we still continue, and will continue, to live our jolly life, careless of these things passing around us.

The troops in our neighborhood still continue inactive, though several days since, a small party of Federals were attacked at Salem, about twenty five miles from this place. They were completely surprised by about three hundred rebels, under the notorious Col. Freeman, and for some time fought at great disadvantage. Finally the rebels were routed, and after reinforcements were received they were pursued some distance, but without avail.

Everything yet indicates that we shall remain here through the winter. Nearly one half of the boys have already supplied themselves with good cooking stoves, and I understand that government will immediately provide for the remainder. As we have all the wood which we want by simply going into the woods and cutting it, by the aid of our stoves we shall pass the winter quite comfortably, though in our tents. Isaac N. Buck has been removed from the office of Quarter Master and Lieut. John Van Pelt of Co. D appointed in his place. Also Ed. Brundage, appointed Q. M. Sergeant, in place of Addison Keyes. Sentinels are received quite regularly.

Yours truly, H.

*AB, 12-19-1861*

#### LETTER FROM CAMP ROLLA

Camp Rolla, Dec 9, 1861

Eds. Beacon: -- Having just returned from a visit among the camps and soldiers west of us, I propose to briefly tell you what I have seen, and what I think of it. I left camp this morning in company with several of our officers on a short pleasure excursion. The morning was lovely and the weather delightful. It has been uncomfortably warm in our tents to-day without fire. We have just had another of those refreshing showers and the atmosphere is pure and healthy. Compare it with one of the most lovely days that you ever enjoyed in Kane

County, in the latter part of April, and you will have an idea of the 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1861, at Rolla, Mo. The climate here is just perfectly magnificent.

The first camp we came to on our journey was that of the 13<sup>th</sup> regiment Ill. Vol's, Col. John B. Wyman. This is a fine regiment and only needs a little "less spirits" among the officers to make it equal with the 36<sup>th</sup>. The boys generally are feeling quite elated, as the paymaster has just pitched his tent within their lines and is preparing to shell out the spelter. They have just received their new tents and clothing, and are really a fine looking set of soldiers. The boys of company H are healing and over the death of one of their companions, Joseph Pauline, of West Aurora. Capt. Gardner informed me that he had been sick some time with and died of typhoid fever. His company under direction of Lieut Prichard, were very busy in making arrangements to send his remains to his parents in Aurora. Lieut. Prichard is looking much better, and his health is greatly improved.

The next camp west of Wyman's is that of Sigel's Brigade. The next, Gen. Carr's; the next Gen. Ashboth's, and so on from camp to camp for five miles. I cannot tell you one half of the Colonels names, there are so many of them. For five miles it is one dense, compact city of tents. I tell you it is one of the finest sights that I have ever seen. When we get out about half a mile we can overlook nearly all the camps. It reminds one very much of Chicago as viewed from the top of her great Court House. It is a rich treat to ride through these camps and note the various employments of the vast crowd of soldiers. Some are washing, some playing ball, some mending their clothes, and still others drilling, cleaning guns, canon, saddles, horses, while the balance are at church, trying to enjoy and understand what some dry, prosey, fat old Chaplain has to offer. Taken as a whole, they appear to be the most content and happy crowd of men that I have ever seen together. It just out does any large city that I ever visited. Large cities all have their attractions, amusements, but the trouble is, they have too many grades of society. There they have the aristocrat and the pauper – here in the army we have nothing of the kind. Here we are all on one grade, all wear the same kind of clothing and live in the same style houses. Our roundabouts are all blue and cut after the same pattern. Here we all work for thirteen dollars per month, and what we can steal; here the pauper's little "W" hard bread is just as white and soft as "any other man's." The army differs from ordinary society and avocations of life in about the same things that that politics does, in the army, as in politics, they too frequently select fools, drunkards and knaves, and put them into office. Whisky runs military, as it does politics, very badly indeed. In my opinion a drunkard is fit for neither. They certainly abound in both. In my opinion whisky and human slavery are two of the blackest sins of this century and generation. I believe them to be the sole cause of this infernal wicked rebellion. If they could both be banished from this earth that I think our people might entertain strong hopes that

the Southern people might yet possibly return to reason and loyalty; until then we will have to expostulate and experiment.

We are having some little change in our regimental organization. Quartermaster Buck has been removed and Lieut. Jack Van Pelt, that large and manly looking man in the Lisbon company substituted. Jack certainly is large enough to make a good Quartermaster. Assistant Surgeon Hawley has been transferred to the 44<sup>th</sup> regiment, and promoted to Surgeon. Hawley has not been with our regiment much of the time since we left Camp Hammond. He has been acting as Assistant Surgeon at the post hospital, until his transfer to Col. Knobledorff's regiment. Capt. Wm. P. Pierce, of Lisbon, will probably secure the appointment of Assistant Surgeon to the 36<sup>th</sup>. He is a great favorite with the regiment, and I believe Surgeon Young desires him as his assistant.

We have had quite an epidemic of measles in the 36<sup>th</sup>, as well as among all the soldiers in the vicinity. They seem to be quite severe and fatal among some of the regiments. They had six funerals from the post hospital yesterday. We have been very fortunate thus far. We have only lost two men, and have had over two hundred cases of measles. These two both belonged to the Young America company, and had got up from the measles, were imprudent in eating, had relapses, and both died – one from dysentery, the other from congestion of the lungs. Our boys have nearly all got around again, and I believe there are but few new cases. Surgeon Young reported three new cases yesterday, one of whom is Lieut. Wm. Clark, of company E. He is much better today, and will be out soon.

Surgeon Young has had a busy time of it, as you may imagine, during our measles, without any assistant. He seems to enjoy it hugely.

We are still entirely in the dark as to our future movements. Some think that we shall go to Kentucky; others, that we shall go west; still others, that we are to remain here. All is guess work however. We shall know, when we do know, anyhow. I will tell you, *confidentially*, when I find out.

Tattle Tale.

*AB, 12-19-1861*

#### LETTER FROM CAMP ROLLA

Rolla, Mo., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

Dear Beacon: -- The weather is bright and beautiful as spring here at present. The health of the regiment is getting good again. Most of those who have had the measles are either well or recovering. As a general thing, we have had them very

light.

A detachment of the 13<sup>th</sup> regiment, consisting of five companies and the cavalry, went out to Salem yesterday with eight days rations, gone to relieve Major Bowen, who was reported to be in trouble.

We do not know when we shall leave here; the same troops are here that were when I last wrote you. I have not been able to get around much yet, since I got back from ----- but I learn there is no preparation for winter quarters on the part of any of the command here, except an Iowa regiment, which have built barracks nearly or quite completed. As both Sigel and Wyman's brigades are still here, anxiously waiting to take a hand in the winter's campaign, which we have heard talked about so long, while the boys of the 36<sup>th</sup> are actually rusting with inaction and literally "spilin" for a fight.

A general court martial is in session here at present. One of the principle cases which will be brought before it will be that of our Colonel, who is to be tried for insulting the dignity of Bill Walker, the Oswego tape and stocking auctioneer. Whether the Colonel will be hung, shot or sent for the balance of his natural life to the Dry Tortugas cannot at present be foreseen. I believe Capt. Camp is in the same boat, and will probably receive the same punishment. The magnitude of the offense demands that an example shall be made. When the verdict shall be made public I will hasten to lay it before your readers. Of all the fare on this caps the climax.

Bill.

*WS, 12-25-1861*

#### A CHAPLAIN IN TROUBLE

By the following which we find in the Rolla, Mo. Express, of the 14<sup>th</sup> inst., it appears that one of those two worthies who, some three months since took the job of "crushing out the Sentinel," is in a fair way to be "crushed out" and dismissed from the position he holds with disgrace:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI,

St. Louis, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

SPECIAL ORDER, No. 38

III. A general court martial is hereby appointed to meet at Rolla, Mo., on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December, 1861, at 10 o'clock, a.m., or as soon thereafter as practicable, for the trial of Col. N. Greusel, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vol., Captain Samuel C. Camp 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vol., Captain James Clifford, 1<sup>st</sup> Mo. Cavalry, acting Chaplain, Geo. G. Lyon, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vol., and such prisoners as may be brought before it.

DETAIL FOR THE COURT

Colonel G. M. Dodge, of the 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteers.

Colonel C. A. Ellis, 1<sup>st</sup> Mo. Cavalry.

Colonel S. H. Boyd, 24<sup>th</sup> Mo. Vols.

Lieut. Col. John Gallagan, 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteers.

Lieut. Col. James K. Mills, 24<sup>th</sup> Mo. Volunteers.

Major W. R. English, 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteers.

Major Eli W. Weston, 24<sup>th</sup> Mo. Volunteers.

Major John J. Joslyn, 1<sup>st</sup> Mo. Cavalry.

Major Clark Wright, Wright's Battalion.

Captain H. J. B. Cummings, 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteers, Judge Advocate.

No other officers than those named, can be assembled without manifest injury to the service.

The Court will sit without regard to hours.

By order of Major General Halleck.

J. C. KELTON,  
Asst. Adj't Gen'l

A friend has sent a copy of the charges preferred against G. G. Lyon, formerly of this place. They are as follows:

Headquarters 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment Illinois Volunteers

Camp Rolla, Mo., Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, 1861

Charges and specifications preferred against George G. Lyon, acting Chaplain of the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment Ill. Volunteers.

Charge first, ---- Fraud on the United States Government

Specification 1<sup>st</sup>. – That the said George G. Lyon did on, or about, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 1861, make out and sign a certificate, (Form three [3] called officers pay account) and present the same to Major Johnson, Paymaster of the United States, and that he, the said George G. Lyon, did by that means obtain pay as a Chaplain of the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment Ill. Vols., for two (2) months and ten (10) days, when he, the said George G. Lyon, had not been in the service that length of time,

Specification 2<sup>nd</sup>. – That the said George G. Lyon did certify that he had owned and kept in the service, two (2) horses, during the whole time, namely : two (2) months and ten (10) days, and that he, the said George G. Lyon, drew pay for the two (2) horses.

Specification 3<sup>rd</sup>. – That he, said George G. Lyon, did certify that he did not draw forage for said two horses, for any part of that time, while acting as Chaplain of the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment of Ill. Vols., when at the same time his requisition for forage is in the hands of the Quartermaster of the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment of Ill. Vols.

Specification 4<sup>th</sup>. – That the said George G. Lyon did certify, that he had not

drawn clothing, or rations, or anything in lieu of his way, and that he was not in arrears with the United States on any account whatsoever.

Specification 5<sup>th</sup>. – That the said George G. Lyon did sign a false muster roll, and did thereby obtain one (1) month's pay for himself, servant and horse, more than the said George G. Lyon was entitled to from the United States.

Specification 6<sup>th</sup>. – That the said George G. Lyon did certify that he kept all the time, namely : two (2) months and ten (10) days, one servant and that said servant was not a soldier, when the said George G. Lyon did not employ a servant, any part of the time.

Charged by Lieut. I. N. Buck  
Quartermaster of the 36<sup>th</sup> Reg't. Ill. Vols.

*AB, 12-26-1861*

#### LETTER FROM CAMP ROLLA

Rolla, Dec. 15, 1861.

Dear Beacon: -- From your knowledge of the difficulties existing between Col. N. Greusel and Lieut. Walker, formerly of Company I, commanded by Capt. Camp, you will not be surprised that Col. Greusel has been ordered to appear before a court martial to answer to charges which have been preferred against him by Walker who has followed the regiment from Camp Hammond, and been endeavoring to work into the good graces of the officers and men. How grave the charges are I cannot tell, but I am confident there are those who are endeavoring to deprive the Col. of his position, who will make these and any other charges that may be preferred to appear in the worst light. If Col. Greusel has done wrong it is right that he should suffer for it, but whether he has or not is a question which is yet to be proved. Since he has been connected with the 36<sup>th</sup> his exertions have been untiring for its interests. He has worked night and day and you can judge whether or not his labors have been successful from the remark made by Col. Dodge, who commands this post. Said he as he saw us returning from a visit to the 18<sup>th</sup>, Colonel Greusel has the best armed, the best equipped, and the *best drilled* regiment that I have seen in the service. The regiment has received unqualified praise from every quarter, by men who were capable of judging of its merits, nor has it received it without a cause. Col. Greusel may well be proud of it, as he surely is. And now that he has brought it to a condition in which he can take a part in the great struggle, and show to the people the results of his labors, we hope he has done nothing that will cause him to be removed from his position and enable a

successor to receive the honors, which are justly his. That Col. Greusel has the confidence and support of the soldiers of the regiment will be seen from the fact that when the officers who went to Springfield returned and stated that they had no commission for the Col., a petition was immediately gotten up setting forth his claims for a commission and when circulated, was signed by very nearly all the officers and men of the regiment. For some reason, however, I believe it has not been sent to Governor Yates yet. Owing to existing and increasing difficulties in the regiment and out of it, Col. Greusel decided to resign. They had their things nearly all packed, and were getting ready to return home, when the commissioned officers held a meeting and got up a petition expressing their confidence in the Col., and earnestly requesting him to remain with the regiment. This petition was signed by nearly all the officers of regiment and handed to him. He was undecided in the matter until in the evening ----- ----- --- ----- ---- and privates turned out by companies, marched to his quarters, and sent up cheer after cheer, calling at intervals for Col. Greusel. He finally came out and addressed them. He spoke of the condition of the regiment, and compared its discipline and equipments with that of other regiments, spoke of its prospects, and told them that he thought he was not only able to lead them into battle, but that he could lead them out again, and finally ended by telling them that if it was their wish, he would stay with them as long as a drop of blood flowed his veins. Again the air was filled with deafening cheers, after which he told them they had better go to their quarters, when they quietly dispersed and went each to his own tent, well satisfied with the result of their visit. Such demonstrations as these show plainly the feelings towards Col. Greusel which is existing in the hearts of his men, and if he shall leave us it will be hard matter to find a man for which the troops will have that amount of esteem and respect which they have for him. Mr. I. N. Buck is under arrest by orders from Gen. Halleck, charges having been preferred against him, and will be tried before a court martial, which is now sitting at Rolla. Lieut. Van Pelt has been appointed Quartermaster of the 36<sup>th</sup>. He appears to be a fine man, and consequently has many friends in the regiment. It is to be hoped that he will remain in that position as he appears to fill it to the satisfaction of those interested. Dr. Hawley, our assistant Surgeon, has left us, having been promoted to the rank of Surgeon of 44<sup>th</sup> Ill. regiment. Dr. Young is alone now, but will probably be assisted by Capt. Pierce. There is considerable sickness in camp at present, and the number of deaths are increasing. The measles have now gone through the regiment, and many after they have recovered are careless about taking cold, and soon become so sick that they never recover. Every day, and sometimes two or three times in a day, we hear a solemn funeral march played by the band of the 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa regiment or by our own, telling us that a number of our comrades has finished his earthly toils.

There are many heavy hearts in those processions as they bear the cold remains to their final resting place, with the stars and stripes under which they had enlisted to fight, now softly covering their coffin, as if to shield it from the gaze of careless spectators. Dr. Young is constantly among the sick, doing all that he can to alleviate the sufferings. Capt. E. B. Baldwin is now sick with the lung fever. But I believe he is not in a dangerous condition. Corporal Brovick's body was taken to his friends on the train which left last Tuesday. He was a member of Capt. Olson's company, and is spoken of as a very fine young man and a good soldier. Gen. Halleck is issuing a great many orders among which is one forbidding officers to give furloughs to officers or men, also one requiring commanders of regiments to give up all slaves which they may have in their camp, and prohibiting them altogether from harboring slaves. Col. Freeman is still committing his depredations in Dent and adjoining counties in the southern part of the State. Last week he went into Salem where he took goods from the stores and houses, and cattle from the farmers. As soon as the news was received, Major Bowen was sent out with a body of cavalry. They stayed in the Court House at Salem, and were attacked during the night by a body of secessionists. Several were wounded but they soon rallied and drove the rebels from the place. Bowen then followed Freeman down almost to the Arkansas line, and a report was brought to Rolla that McBride and Freeman had surrounded him and cut off his retreat. Wednesday, five companies of the Ill. 13<sup>th</sup> and 2 companies of cavalry, with their baggage, went out to reinforce Bowen. We have received no news of any account from them since they left. It is not probable, however, that they will catch the rascal they are after. Gen. Ashboth has moved his men to within about 2 and a half miles of Rolla. Other than these there has been no movement of troops since I last wrote. There has been rumors afloat that our cavalry companies in the 36<sup>th</sup> are to be disbanded, but it is not generally credited, and I hope there is no truth in the report. We receive dailies from St. Louis every day, as the trains run regularly now, and all are looking anxiously for any measures which Congress shall take in regard to the crushing out of the rebellion. As it is not so the soldiers can visit their homes, we hope the friends will make it in their way to give us a friendly call, and they may rest assured that they will be welcome. Don't forget to send the Beacon.

F. O. W.

*AB, 12-26-1861*

Camp Rolla, Dec. 18, 1861.

Eds. Beacon: -- This glorious weather and tiresome inactivity diffuses a sort

of nervousness through every inch of my phlegmatic disposition. The nights are cool, moon lit, and almost crispy; the days, sunny, beautiful, and almost hot; seemingly just the weather for raising – a big smoke – with the Southern Confederacy, and yet, though our hungry minds every day crave some tidings of something effective against the enemy, we are still where we have been for the last three months.

Don't understand that we are finding fault. It's only the natural effect of weather. We are not half so ready to criticize and condemn the movements and orders of the commanders of this and other departments as those whom they do not half so much concern, and who have no part in the execution or obedience of his commands, or orders. We don't have the time to indulge in the refinements of logic, and to find out the *theoretical* consequence of his policy, which the abundant leisure of many we have left behind enables them to discover. We are only where we can observe the practical bearing of some of the orders which have so agitated newspaperdom, and so stirred up the surplus intellect of a great portion of the North; and from observations here we know that the confidence of all in the ability and judgment of General Halleck is so great from the measures he has already adopted, that they are ready to execute his plans; await his time; co-operate with him in his thorough renovation of matters in the department; to trust to his wisdom and judgment the management of such matters of a political color as may incidentally come under his notice.

From the papers we get hold of, we gather that the all absorbing topic among our friends, among newspapers, and in Congress is, "What shall be done with the slaves of rebels?" Shall we do as a portion of Congress seems disposed – set them all free? Or do as the President seems inclined to – ignore the question unless Congress acts upon it? Tenderness upon the negro question prevented the reinforcement of the forts at Charleston, Pensacola, Mobile, at the mouths of the Mississippi and Savannah Rivers, and most of them fell into the hands of the enemy. Indecision as to the proper course prevented Sumpter from blowing into the air the works erected about her and she fell a prey to the enemies of the Government. Hesitancy upon this question prevented us from occupying Missouri and Kentucky until our presence there entailed upon them all the horrors of civil war, and has cost a fine army, where lives have been yielded up to no purpose in hospitals, and in vain attempts to take possession of points which might have been occupied by three months troops as easily as the places where they spent their time in idleness. Now that our forces occupy the principal part of those States the negro question assumes such a magnitude that it can no longer be evaded, and with deeper significance than ever it is asked, "What shall be done with the slaves of the rebels?" Union men of Maryland, Missouri, Kentucky, and parts of Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina agree in saying that something must be done, but

resolutely insisted that they shall not be set free. The moment the emancipation policy is determined upon, that moment we unite nearly every Union man in the border states with our foes. Shall we, than push that policy forward regardless of their aid, and be left to “play a lone hand,” or must we relinquish our hold upon the most effective club we can swing over the heads of rebels, (that of depriving them of their peculiar property.) Are we driven to the one or the other expedient? *Cannot Congress adopt measures to facilitate the establishment in States where they do not already exist, of loyal provisional governments, based upon their slave constitutions, for the enforcement of their slave-property-recognizing laws; in which Governments may vest the title to such property as, from its nature, cannot be vested in the United States? Or must the title to all confiscate property vest in the United States or no where at all?*

This plan, if possible, would not, I am aware, meet the views of perhaps a majority of Republicans even, for it would not look to the *immediate* extinction of slavery. But, at this time, when one third of our States are in rebellion; when England threatens and France frowns, if the question should turn upon the irretrievable downfall and extinction of constitutional liberty upon this continent, or the *immediate* liberation of the slave population of the United States, shall we hesitate long which to chose?

But I must relinquish the visionary and write something not manufactured to fill up. The difficulties which have been somewhat unpleasant in the regiment are about to be settled by court martial which will doubtless show who is at fault, and will probably acquit all parties of blame. The health of the regiment is improving, the measles having almost disappeared. Lieut. Bill Clark is, however quite sick at present, though somewhat improved from yesterday. Dr. Hawley has been transferred to the 44<sup>th</sup> Ill. and promoted to Surgeon, and will probably be succeeded by the best looking and finest man in the regiment – Capt. Dr. Pierce – Doc. Young is well, and is a tolerably good looking man – *with his store clothes on*. The regiment is in good humor, and ready and anxious to do something – anything. Want England to wait two months, and are then ready to join any respectable expedition to relieve her loyal arrogance of her little Canadas.

Yours,

On Foot.

1862

*WS, 1-1-1862*

OUR LETTERS FROM CAMP  
FROM MISSOURI  
THE WOODSTOCK RIFLES AT ROLLA  
FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Camp 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vols., Rolla, Mo.  
Thursday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>, 1861

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL

It is a well known fact that from Maine to California, and even in the rebel States of Dixie, Christmas is regarded by all as a day of feasting and pleasure, and this in pursuance of the time honored custom, the origin of which is hidden in a remote antiquity. But with us, living this military life of ours, all days are the same, and thus we have passed, for us, the strangest Christmas. In our small town it is impossible to procure those delicacies which heretofore loaded our tables on such occasions and yet on this day almost every mess has managed to procure some extra that they might at least keep up a semblance of those not yet forgotten festivities around the family table, which in former times they were wont to enjoy.

Even the homely, foolish, yet cheerful phrase, "I wish you a merry Christmas," with its customary "Thank you," has been often heard in our camp today. Messrs. Editors, and good people all, we wish you a merry Christmas. We assure you that we have passed the time as merrily as we could, and hope that in our homes in Illinois, the usual scenes of glee have been enacted, though greatly to the destruction of fat turkeys, and others of the feathered kind.

The snow which has been with us for the past three days is thawing rapidly, and in a day or two it will probably be gone. There will be no regret at its disappearance. No jingling of bells came with it, and although it may give place to a reign of mud, yet we shall be glad to see it depart. This is the second snow storm we have had, and with these two exceptions, the weather has been very fine, and the ground quite dry. Our tents are now very comfortable, being fitted up with temporary frame bunks for sleeping. They are warm, light, and I believe healthy. Nearly every one now contains a small cooking stove, and with all the conveniences which the boys have gathered, they present quite a cosy appearance.

Today I visited the Iowa 4<sup>th</sup>. They are now in barracks, huge log buildings, 40x100 feet, with a log partition running lengthwise through the center, thus making as it were two houses each. Every one of these is divided into three rooms, the first, 20x50, being used as a sleeping apartment and sitting room. It is encircled on the inside by a row of berths, four tiers in height, each one accommodating two persons. The second is a dining room, tenanted by four or five cooks, and a large stove, is that most important place in all companies, to which all eyes are turned at least twice a day. The rooms are lighted by a few small windows scattered along the sides, and are so dark the men can with difficulty see to read in them. These three rooms are occupied by about ninety men, of whom many are quite sick, though not ill enough to be admitted to the hospital. It was the universal testimony of all the men with whom I conversed, that tents are far preferable to such barracks. They esteem them more healthy, they are far pleasanter, and allow the division of the company into small messes, which is usually desirable. We are satisfied with our quarters, and I think there are very few men in the Thirty sixth who would exchange their canvas houses for any temporary barracks that could be erected.

The Iowa boys are very pleasant companions. I fell in with one of them, and by him was piloted over the entire grounds, not even excepting the hospital. This is a very substantial log building, well lighted, and besides the kitchen and surgeon's office, contains four large rooms for the accommodation of patients. In each of these were about fifteen, and by their pallid faces I could easily see that many of them were very ill. In one room were eight, of whom one of the assistants remarked "their chances were very slim," and I thought he told the truth. The principle disease is pneumonia, which seems to set in on a relapse of measles, and

generally proves fatal. The regiment has by long continued sickness, been rendered really unfit for service. Their average loss is at least one per day, and their sick list numbers over two hundred.

This morning our sick numbered 34, and the regiment, under the care of our surgeon, Dr. Young, is regarded as quite healthy. His assistant, Dr. Hawley, has been appointed surgeon of the 44<sup>th</sup> Illinois, and Capt. Pierce, Assistant Surgeon, in his place. During the short time Dr. Hawley has been with us, he has acquired the esteem of all, our company in particular, by his pleasant ways and sincere regard for their welfare, and many were the honest regrets at his departure.

It has been thought that the clothing we have received is inferior in quality to that required by the Army Regulations, and a Board of Survey has been appointed to appraise the articles dealt out to the men. Today they examined the goods, and I understand attached values to them much lower than is laid down in the regular price list. Their report will be sent to General Halleck, and if approved by him, will be considerable savings to the boys, though a corresponding loss to the Government. A money value is placed on each article, and besides our usual wages, we are allowed \$3.50 per month for clothing. If we do not expend it all, the surplus is paid us each payday, and on the other hand, if our clothing bill exceeds that amount, the excess is deducted from our regular wages.

Acting Brigadier Gen. Wyman has assumed command of this post, and Gen. Sigel arrived last night from St. Louis, where he has been ill for some time. In fact, we are now favored with a superabundance of high officers. It has been aptly stated that there are at least three Brigadiers to every regiment, and though this is an extravagant statement, yet I believe it is quite fashionable for every Col., ours only expected, to be styled General, and the public prints are thus filled with their ponderous, yet imaginary titles. One thing is certain, our Government has done wisely in refusing to accept any more regiments, and turning its attention to the filling up of those now in the field, for it is only by this means that the proper proportion between officers and men can be preserved. We have too many officers – too few men.

The great expedition down the Mississippi is yet a thing undone. We have much confidence in General Halleck and yet are half impatient at his seeming inactivity. Our boys want to see a fight. They earnestly wish to hear the whistle of leaden balls and the booming of cannon in actual battle, though it may be for some their last engagement. And at the present time nothing could be more benefit to us than the presence of a formidable enemy. If we had been shattered in some fierce encounter, or Price with his ragged crew were near us, then perhaps the intestine spirit of contention might be quenched. Then perhaps all things would move on in a manner befitting the best body of troops yet raised in Illinois. Then, perhaps, that eternal wrangling which has brought our regiment into disrepute might cease.

Then, perhaps, those to whom we privates look for a worthy example, perhaps they would set it, by a noble unanimity of purpose, of feeling, of action, of earnest devotion to the great patriotic cause which we all should have a heart. But how is it with us. Our regiment is torn by dissention and discord; there is not that mutual good feeling which should exist. A Court Martial is now in session at this place, by the operation of which it is hoped these things may cease. Col. Greusel has, for the time, turned over the command of the regiment to Col. Joslyn, and in consequence of the cold weather, our drill has been dispensed with.

Company B, infantry, was detached a few days since to guard a railroad bridge about thirty miles from here, which it was feared would be attacked by the few lurking bridge burners that prowl throughout the State.

Our pay rolls are again made out, and we expect to greet the paymaster for the second time on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January, 1862.

From our private letters we learn that many exciting rumors are floating about in your vicinity, in reference to some of our officers. These tales are false. I have no time to show them up, but as a general rule it is safe never to believe these stories from camp, which seem the property of all, and have no one in particular to vouch for their accuracy. More anon.

Yours, very truly,

H.

*AB, 1-9-1862*

#### WAR CORRESPONDENCE

Rolla, Dec. 27, 1861

Editors Beacon : General Siegel has been placed in command of all the troops now at Rolla. I believe they are estimated at sixteen thousand. Col. Wyman is senior Col. in Siegel's command, and will probably command this post. An order was received from General Halleck this week, which stated that the 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa and the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois regiments would guard the post during the winter. We sincerely hope, however that it will be countermanded, and that they will give us a chance to go south and fight with our enemies instead of quarreling with each other. He has also issued an order prohibiting Col. Dodge from making application for anymore furloughs for troops at this post. This order will probably not please a majority of the boys, as a goodly number of them had made up their minds to go back to *America* this winter, if they could get furloughs.

Company B, Infantry, Capt. Miller, left Rolla Wednesday. They have gone back about seventy miles to the Iron Mountain Railroad, and are quartered in a small village, they took eight days rations along with them. A night or two before

about two hundred of Wright's cavalry went out to guard different points on the R. R. Companies A and B Cavalry, of the 36<sup>th</sup>, have been ordered to have their horses shod and in order for service. This betokens a march before long. You readers may wish to learn something of the regiment in regard to our numbers. The number of deaths and discharges since the regiment was mustered into service are as follows:

In Co. A Cavalry, 3 dead and 3 discharged.

In Co. B, Cavalry, 1 dead and 2 discharged.

In Co. A, Infantry, 1 dead – Lieutenant Chappel.

In Co. B, Infantry, 2 discharged.

In Co. C, Infantry, 5 dead.

In Co. D, Infantry, 1 discharged.

In Co. E, Infantry, 1 dead.

In Co. F, Infantry, 1 dead and 2 discharged.

In Co. G, Infantry, 2 discharged.

In Co. H, Infantry, Lieutenant M. F. Elsworth resigned.

In Co. I, Infantry, 2 dead and 3 discharged.

In Co. K, Infantry, 1 dead.

Total number of deaths 15. Whole number of discharged on account of disability 15. Resignations 1. The morning report today gives one thousand one hundred and fifty eight officers and soldiers fit for duty and ten sick. This report includes the musicians, field and staff officers. Most of the deaths have been caused by taking cold, after having partially recovered from the measles. Mr. Charles F. Winans of Company A, Cavalry, died a week ago last Sunday, and his remains were sent to his friends in Plano for interment. His disease was typhoid fever. Charley had many warm friends in the company and the news of his death was received with sadness. Although many of the boys were nearly out of money, still they contributed liberally to defray the expenses of sending the corpse home. It costs eight dollars to get the coffin lined, one dollar to get it soldered up after the body is put in it, and thirty four dollars in advance on the express bill. Last week Company A, Cavalry, received several fitkins of butter, a number of cheeses, and several boxes containing tokens of friendship from the people of Sugar Grove. These have been coming from there for a long time. Also a box containing pillows, pillow – slips, and sheets for the hospital. We would return our most sincere thanks for the kindness which they have shown us. It takes a long time for things to come all of the way from *America* to Rolla. One young man has been expecting to receive a package from his wife for nearly two months, and it has not come yet. It is hard to tell where the fault lies.

A board of safety was appointed Monday to examine the clothes of the 36<sup>th</sup>. They apprised the clothing at about one half the original cost. I believe Uncle Sam

proposes to pay just what the clothes are worth, and *no more*, and his nephews will receive it from him at the same price. The clothing was received from the State of Illinois, and she will have to stand the loss. That which we have received is far from that which the army regulations require, and if Illinois has been gouged by contractors, it is nothing more than just she should sustain the loss which otherwise must fall upon the soldiers. Receiving but thirteen dollars per month, with such clothing as we have, it will cost us all which we can earn to pay for it and supply ourselves with other *necessaries* of life.

F. O. W.

*AB, 1-9-1862*

Rolla, December 30, 1861

Dear Beacon: The boys are generally having a good time with the holidays. Some of the companies had friends at home who provided them with a Christmas dinner. Company E was provided for by the liberality of its officers; others went in on their own hook and the consumption of geese, chickens, oysters and other luxuries not down in the table of rations, was immense. All enjoyed themselves as well as could be expected, considering that we were strangers in a strange land. Many were the thoughts of home, all wished that the dear ones, "we left behind us" could have been there to partake of our enjoyment.

Last night Bill Walker, the would be Lieutenant of Company I, was hung in effigy by the members of that company who have become indignant at the persistent efforts of himself and others to force him upon them against their often expressed wishes and earnest protest. My sentiments towards Walker are those of pity. Poor miserable deluded half crazed tool in the hands of those who wish to break up what everybody who has seen it acknowledges it to be – the best regiment of men which has left our noble State. He is certainly beneath the contempt of every honorable man. I don't know how long the enemies of the regiment can afford to keep him here without pay, but I think they would get sick and disgusted with him. While I am opposed to mob rule, I do not sanction the hanging in effigy, I must confess that the boys of Company I have had their patience sorely tried with him, and are justified by the circumstances in taking harsh means to rid themselves of the nuisance.

December 31, -- Today the regiment was mustered for pay, and of course, every man except those in the hospitals or on duty elsewhere was in the ranks. Every company was out in full strength, and every man looked his best. We expect the Paymaster here again in eight or ten days, when the boys will all be rich as long

as their money lasts. Judging by the last pay day, a large proportion of what they receive will speedily find its way to the counties of Kane and Kendall to the families and friends of the soldiers, to show them that they are not forgotten.

It is thought by the knowing ones that we are not to stay here much longer. We had orders some time ago to report the number of men in the regiment fit to march, and later to make requisitions for everything needful to make us ready for marching orders. The indications are that we shall move soon. The sooner the better. Let the boys have "Old Greusel" as he is familiarly called, to lead them, and they are ready to go anywhere, even to the canon's mouth or the bayonet's point. Speaking of our Colonel – I say *our* Colonel, for every man in the regiment has an interest in him – it seems strange to me that he does not get his commission. Col. Greusel is not a politician, but he is a good soldier – such as we want to lead the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, and we must have him at whatever cost, or it's usefulness will be sadly impaired. The Court Martial before which he is to be tried has adjourned till the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January. If right triumphs as I have every confidence it will, I shall be satisfied.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Regiment is encamped about 2 miles from here. A detachment from that regiment has been out to Salem, about 20 miles from here, looking after the secesh in that locality. The only accident that happened to them as far as I heard, was "Sharpy" had his money, about eighty dollars, stolen from him. Capt. Gardner took dinner at our "ranch" yesterday; he reports company H all right.

There is to be a party tonight at the Tiffany House. As I am something of an invalid yet, I cannot attend, but I presume, from the preparations being made, there will be a grand time. But, I must close this long and rambling letter by wishing you and your readers a "Happy New Year"

Bill

AB, 1-9-1862

Camp Rolla, Dec. 30, 1861

Editors Beacon; -- Again I find myself seated with the bright anticipation of giving you and your readers a few new items concerning the 36<sup>th</sup>. We are having quite an excitement in this section this morning in consequence of the sudden departure of all the cavalry connected with division. I have just returned from seeing the expedition off. It consists of 2500 mounted and well armed men, and one company of sappers and miners, all under Colonel Carr, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Illinois Cavalry. Company B cavalry of the 36<sup>th</sup>, Capt. Jenks, formed a portion of the party. The Captain, with his eighty odd boys, was the first company on the ground

this morning, and the center of attraction, as usual. The fact is Capt. Jenks' boys, horses and equipage always look clean and tidy, and are always ready to march at a moments warning. Colonel Carr, the commander of the expedition, is a regular army officer. He is a fine and intelligent looking gentleman, and is said to understand his business as well as "any other man." They started in a southwestern direction, with a long train, carrying fifteen days provisions. Where they have gone I shall not tell you at present. Believe me when I assure you, that they are fully prepared to meet secessionists by the thousand. Never did a finer looking, nor a more loyal and determined set of men leave any camp, than those who have just left Rolla in search of this country's enemies. Pity you, Price and his hounds, if they chance to meet this detachment of Uncle Samuel's boys.

We are having various and numerous changes in the commanders of this post and its surrounding army. All the troops here are under the command of General Curtis, of Iowa. General Curtis is also a regular army officer. He is the most intelligent and venerable looking man that has commanded this army since its organization. His white hair, together with his temperate benevolent countenance; is well calculated to inspire our officers and men with renewed confidence. The first look convinces one that he is a temperate and honorable man – two rare qualities for any officer. I believe the entire army here rejoice in this valuable acquisition to our department. You need not now be surprised to hear there has been something done in Missouri. With the brave and gallant Pope at one side of the state, the venerable and sober Curtis in the center, we must certainly do something beside marching to Springfield and falling back. That fallback movement has not been explained to the satisfaction of anybody I apprehend. My private opinion is, and has been, that if all the men in that army, considering themselves competent, and desiring commissions as Brigadier Generals had been disposed of, the last retreat would never have taken place. Springfield was altogether too far from headquarters for the politicians of the army to play their cards successfully. Nearly the entire business of the volunteer officers, thus far, has been to figure for promotions and emoluments. There is hardly a regiment in the service but has been injured more or less by these figuring politicians. In some instances, perhaps, efforts have been made to obtain situations by hard study and worthy deeds of actual service, but in a majority of cases – yes, in a large majority, -- the efforts have been to build themselves up on the downfall of others. Combinations have been formed, charges preferred, and all manner of low political tricks played to obtain situations. This is all wrong and should be stopped instanter. The actors in these dramas should be brought to perform on a harp with one string and the bridge down. The 36<sup>th</sup>, I am happy to say, has been totally free from this kind of tom-foolery. Our officers are men and behave like gentlemen. The privates generally and especially agree well, very well indeed.

The health of all the camps here is improving very much. The measles we hope are about played out. There have been no new cases in our regiment in over two weeks. Many of the boys who have had them are still weak and feeble.

Captain Miller and his company have been sent down the railroad some fifty miles to St. Clare. The Captain, I am informed has his headquarters in a church, where he sits and writes his orders in regular Brigadier General style. This I think is quite a recommend to Captain Silas, that he should be selected to go and take charge of an entire town and run it. You may rest assured of one thing, that the Captain is fully equal to the task. We are not brigaded yet, but, will undoubtedly be soon. Gen. Curtis and Siegel are making out a programme. All we ask is to be put into a civilized brigade, -- one that is as far from whiskey as circumstances will allow, with a native Illinoian to command us, and my word for it you get a satisfactory report from the 36<sup>th</sup>. The old man's head is level and he is bound to win. There is a brighter day coming for the old man and . . .

Tattle Tale

*AB, 1-9-1862*

Rolla Jan. 2, 1862

Dear Beacon ; -- The weather has taken a sudden cold since yesterday morning. All day there has been a drizzling rain falling, which froze as it fell, and tonight there is a coat of ice enveloping everything around the camp. Quartermaster Van Pelt thinks seriously of making a requisition for 1200 pairs of skates for the use of the regiment. The tents are very comfortable, all of them having fires, and many of them floors and doors. It is thought by the best medical authorities that they are much healthier than barracks, where large numbers of men are compelled to eat and sleep in the same room without ventilation.

Another large detachment of cavalry left here last night -- destination, "unknown." The secessionists between here and Springfield will hear something very soon. Gen. Curtis is determined to put them under his command -----  
----- yesterday which is another indication we shall receive marching orders before long. The teams consist of six mules each and a ponderous wagon nearly as large as a freight car. The driver sits upon the left wheel mule, and drives with one rein attached to the near leader. The drivers were detailed from the different companies, and there was a great strife among the boys as to who should be promoted to positions in the mule brigade.

Yesterday morning at the reveille roll call nearly every company in the

regiment marched in front of the Colonel's house and wished him a Happy New Year, with three rousing cheers from each company. The boys, with very few exceptions, are very strongly in favor of the "Old Man." They say they enlisted to serve under him, and it would be a severe blow to them should he be taken from the regiment.

This town is growing rapidly; a cheap class of buildings are springing up in every quarter. Government is building some large store houses, showing that it is the intention to keep possession of this post. The work on the fort is still progressing ; I think it will take considerable work yet to make it amount to a great deal as a protection to the town or those who are unlucky enough to be inside of it in case of an attack. The health of the regiment is first rate in comparison to that of others encamped here. I visited the hospital yesterday and found only some six or eight patients there, everyone of them was able to go to the dining room to take his meals. If there is another regiment in the State can say as much I will own up. Dr. Douglas, who has been sent from Washington to examine the different departments of the Western army, complimented our hospital highly. He said he had seen no better arrangements anywhere, and had not found so healthy a regiment in the service.

Bill

*AB, 1-16-1862*

#### LETTER FROM DR. YOUNG

We have been handed the following communication from Dr. Young, Surgeon of the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, to Mrs. W. H. Hawkins, Secretary of the Ladies' Aid Society of this place. What the Dr. says in relation to the health and comfort of the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment is true. His appeal for a few pounds of good fresh butter for his hospital we hope will be responded to, with the promptness and liberality which has characterized the people of this region, for aid in behalf of the soldier. Mrs. H. informs us that the Society for which she is acting, desires to comply with the request of Dr. Young, and will receive and send to the regiment any contribution of butter or other articles that the friends of the regiment may contribute. An effort will be made to fill a firkin containing 75 to 100 pounds of butter, and forward it as soon as possible to Rolla. The hope is felt that our lady friends in the country will assist in the fulfillment of this design.

Camp Rolla, Mo., Jan. 1, 1862

Mrs. W. H. Hawkins, *Secretary of Soldier's Aid Society, Aurora:*

Madam: -- Your very kind and welcome letter of December 27<sup>th</sup> came to hand last evening, and was most thankfully received. In reply, allow me, in behalf of the sick of the regiment to thank you and your kind and patriotic associates, for the valuable donations sent, and the kind regards and sympathies expressed in your letter. I assure you our sick soldiers fully appreciate the valuable New Years present. Although our hospital has been liberally and amply supplied with everything to make our sick comfortable, these fine things from Aurora are particularly welcome! *Because they come from our own home.* We fully appreciate the motives of the kind donors, and shall ever consider them worthy benefactors. I assure you, anything from Aurora possesses peculiar interest to the soldiers of the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment. We are now liberally supplied with pillows, sheets, blankets, bandages and everything to make our sick comfortable. The only thing that is hard for us to obtain here is good butter. If the kind friends in Aurora desire to aid us any farther they cannot send us anything more acceptable than a firkin of good butter. We have a regimental bakery and good flour and bakers furnished by government, and, therefore have the best of bread. We can buy plenty of potatoes, chickens, turnips, oysters and all that sort of food for the hospital, but most unfortunately for the sick, good butter is not an article of Missouri commerce, and as it is not furnished by government, we are reluctantly compelled to appeal to our home friends for it. The health of the regiment is very good – very good indeed. We only report twenty two men unable to do duty today. We have only eight men in hospital, and none of them dangerously sick. Owing to the temperate habits and the generally good behavior of our privates we have not had much sickness in the regiment except the measles. We have had a severe epidemic of measles, which has extended through the several camps vicinity. We here had two hundred and thirty seven cases of measles in our regiment. We have lost several men – others are left weak and feeble; all, now, however, seem in a fair way to recover. Your friends and acquaintances here are all well. Col. Greusel is as popular with the men as ever. He has convinced the boys of two things: that he is the best disciplinarian, and the best drilled Colonel in the whole Western Department.

Thank you and your kind associates again for your kindness and valuable donation. I remain as ever,

D. W. Young  
Surgeon, 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment Ill. Volunteers

*WS, 1-29-1862*

WOODSTOCK RIFLES IN MOTION  
FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Camp Brackett, Waynesville, Mo.  
Sunday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>, 1862

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL :

The morning of Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of January, found us snugly ensconced in our tents at Rolla, most of us firmly in the belief that we should remain there throughout the winter. During our long stay, we had gradually made our tents nearly as comfortable as our houses, and with the abundance of rations dealt out, the boys were enjoying themselves nearly as well as they could at home. Early in the morning it was announced that we must be off in three hours, but it was generally disbelieved. Soon came the order to prepare for an immediate march, and accordingly we began our work in good earnest. Rations were drawn for two days, but owing to lack of time, they had to be thrown away half cooked. Knapsacks were packed, tents struck, and at 2 p.m., we formed in twos, and with colors flying, and the band playing, commanded by Lieut. Col. Joslyn, marched out of our pleasant camp, through the town, and out towards the Gasconade, on the oft traveled road to Springfield. As we passed the Iowa 4<sup>th</sup>, they greeted us with three rousing cheers, and then away for the wars.

Each company was provided with two wagons, drawn by six mule teams, and we stowed away in them all our spare blankets. The first day, we marched about four miles, and then pitched our tents.

Wednesday, we started at 10 a.m., and at 3 o'clock, crossed the Little Piney, near its junction with the Gasconade, where we stopped for the night. On Thursday we arrived, 7 miles distant on the Big Piney, at 12 o'clock. A bridge was formed with wagons, and at night all the troops had crossed and encamped on the bottom land beyond the creek. Col. Greusel arrived from Rolla and assumed command of the Regiment. Friday we reached Waynesville, the county seat of Pulaski County, a small village less in size than Ridgefield, situated on the Roukideaux Creek and almost completely encircled with huge inaccessible granite bluffs. We encamped on a low bottom adjoining a corn field, and pitched our tents

in regular military style, as we expect to remain here several days.

Our camping grounds are wretched indeed. It is the muddiest place in which I ever saw man live. The frost, which was about 4 inches deep, has disappeared, and now the entire camp ground is nothing else than a bed of mud. The boys cut the stalks in the corn field, and spreading them down in their tents, made a passable bed on which to spread their bunks, &c.

The two bodies of Cavalry, which recently left Rolla, are now at this place, being about three thousand in number.

With us came two batteries, 14 guns in all, and the 17<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Regiments of Missouri Volunteers, accompanied by an enormous train of forage and provisions. The entire expedition is commanded by Brig. Gen. Osterhaus, Col. of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Mo. Vol.

It is reported here, that several other regiments have left Rolla, on the same road, and we expect soon to see ten thousand men from Rolla, on the march for Springfield. Near this place, at the foot of an enormous bluff, is a large spring, 20 feet in diameter, and 15 feet deep, from which flows forth the creek, a rapid stream, at least quarter the size of the Fox River. A rude decayed frame stands over it, and altogether it is a rare and beautiful sight. Our rations thus far have been: hard bread, bacon, coffee, sugar and beans, and not enough of these. Hence a great deal of fresh pork has been consumed, which seems to come into camp very mysteriously. One thing is certain, our boys will not starve.

Yours truly, H.

AB, 1-30-1862

Camp Rolla, Mo  
Jan. 13, 1862

Dear Beacon : -- I propose through you as a medium, to inform the friends of the "36<sup>th</sup>," of what is going on at this place.

The weather for the past week, has been very cold, till yesterday when it moderated, and the most of our snow disappeared making it anything but agreeable "under foot."

"The Boys" are at last *en route* for fun, or in other words, off for a fight. On Tuesday morning last, Lieut. Col. Joslyn received orders to join three other Ill. Regiments, and go to the relief of the cavalry sent out some days previous. It was a very cold morning, yet the boys obeyed orders with alacrity, and at 2 o'clock P.M., they were on their way rejoicing. It was hard work for them to go without

their old friend, the Col., but having learned to beat misfortunes with becoming fortitude, there was but little murmuring in the ranks. On Wednesday morning, Col. N. Greusel, Capt. Camp and Lieut. Merrill were ordered to report for duty, which order caused not a little rejoicing among military men generally at Rolla; for “Old Nick” had many and warm friends here. The next morning the trio set out for their respective posts of duty; the Col. to command the expedition – to act as Brigadier General.

They arrived at the camp that evening, as the boys were at supper, and the Colonels reception was warm and enthusiastic. So eager were the boys to express their joy that they took him, the Colonel, from his horse, and carried him into camp. Last night Lieutenant Walker of Company I, returned to Rolla, having been superceded by Lieutenant Merrill. He will now probable return home, a wiser if not better man.

Gen. Wyman’s division leaves today or tomorrow; destination not known, but probably to follow Greusel’s division to Springfield; but I fear it will be to no purpose, as Price is retreating again toward Arkansas. Prices cavalry made an advance upon Lebanon, at the same time his infantry took a “doublequick” for safer quarters.

Whether the 36<sup>th</sup> will return to Rolla again, is a question – to say the least, we hope not, for we are weary of idleness. The health of your regiment is good; but very few are on the sick list, and they are doing well.

Iona

### **Curtis conducts his campaign against Price into Arkansas, January to March, 1862**

It wasn’t until January that the new Union Commander Sam Curtis, thought his army ready to move again. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of that month, the 36<sup>th</sup> left Rolla, with the rest of the army on a long, arduous march that would take it through Springfield and across the Arkansas line in search of the elusive Sterling Price and his Confederates

## **The Regiment is attached to 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, Army of Southwest Missouri until March, 1862**

The 36<sup>th</sup> was part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division commanded by General Peter Osterhaus which, in turn, was part of Franz Sigel's Corps. As it happened, then, the regimental, division, and corps commanders were all first generation German Americans; likewise, most of the other soldiers in the division. Only the 36<sup>th</sup> was made up of men who spoke English as their first language.

*AB, 1-30-1862*

### LETTERS FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT

Camp Waynesville, Mo. Jan. 17, 1862

Editors Beacon: -- Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, before daylight, our horses were fed and saddled, our breakfast eaten, our tents struck and loaded, and at sunrise we were mounted and in line ready for a march. We left camp of the 36<sup>th</sup> and were soon on the parade ground of the 18<sup>th</sup> Ills., which was to be the place of rendezvous for those who were connected with this expedition. Company A was the first on the ground, and waited some time before the rest arrived. Captain Jenks is not an afternoon man, and if he receives orders to be at a place at 7 o'clock, he does not take it for granted that ten will be early enough. When the lines of troops were formed, Company A was in the center. We were put under command of Major Morse; the position assigned us was on the left of his battalion. After we were formed in line, General Curtis and Asboth, with a number of other officers reviewed the troops. General Curtis, with uncovered head, and his grey locks floating with the wind, never looked half so noble as he did while he rode the length of the line and took position in front of the center. After going through with the usual salutations, the command, "By companies, right wheel," was given, the line was broken, and we commenced our march. The sun shone brightly upon our polished sabers and brass buttons, causing them to reflect its rays in every direction. The horses were fresh and restless, and many of them tried the strength of their riders arm as they endeavored to rush out of the ranks. It was a grand sight – made doubly so by the beauty of the morning, and had it been in Aurora, would probably have called together a much larger number of spectators than it did. We passed through Rolla and turned toward the south west, passing by the fort. We moved quite slow the first day, passing frequently, and finally going into, camp, on the Little Piney, about thirteen miles from Rolla.

Nothing of interest occurred during the night. We slept in the open air upon

the river bank, and as soundly as we would in a palace. We were to march again by sunrise, but as we were to act as rear guard did not leave until a long after. We marched very slowly during the day, as the road was very bad, and it was almost impossible for the wagons to get along. Many of the mules were green, having been harnessed but a few times before. After dark we passed the rear portion of the train, and got into camp at about ten o'clock at night, having traveled a distance of twenty one miles. Some of the wagons had been run against trees, and stopped up the road; others, in coming down hills had been capsized, and in several instances the mules were injured or killed outright. Our camp was situated on the banks of the Big Piney, in a very pleasant grove. Tuesday morning Col. Carr, ordered eighty of the forage wagons to return to Rolla, as they retarded the progress of the expedition. When the troops and baggage train were in line of march they extended over a distance of three miles. We left camp in good season in the morning, and continued our march until after sundown. We crossed the Gasconade in the afternoon, and passed about twelve miles beyond, camping on the bank of a little creek. Our days march amounted to about thirty five miles. The wagons moved slowly on account of the bad state of the roads, and stopped about five miles out of camp, so that we were obliged to go to bed without any supper; consequently this camp was named "Camp Starve." Wednesday, owing to information which Col. Carr received, he deemed it advisable instead of moving further forward to retreat as far as the Gasconade. The train began to move back in the forenoon, also most of the troops. Three companies, however, were ordered to go on a about through the surrounding country, Capt. Jenk's company being one of the number. We were ordered to return to Camp Starve at night and if desired to follow after the rest. We heard that there was a company of "secesh" about six miles from where we were, and taking a guard started after them. When we got where they were they were not there; and it was reported by the natives that they left about a week before. They had heard of the coming of the Union troops, and had flown like the chaff before the wind leaving their wives and children to the mercies of their enemies. Many houses were without tenants, and some which were inhabited were hardly a fit shelter for cattle. There are, however, a few good comfortable houses in this section of the country. We returned to Camp Starve at night, and remained until the next morning. It rained some during the night and froze as it fell, covering the saddles and blankets with ice, as we had no tents for shelter. Thursday we came back as far as Camp Ruggles, on the Gasconade, where the rest of the troops were on camp. We arrived there just before night and pitched our tents. It rained very hard in the night, so that the water ran into our tents, wetting our blankets, and making it very unpleasant for us. The next day we were obliged to cut twigs with leaves from the bushes, and spread them in the tent to lay upon. We procured forage from the farmers in all directions, giving them receipts

for it. Upon receipts given to disloyal citizens they write “secesh,” and when they are presented for payment they will be disregarded. Union men will receive pay for all property which is taken or destroyed. We remained at Camp Ruggles until Sunday morning, when we again started in a northwesterly direction, marching through the valley of the Gasconade a distance of fifteen miles, we encamped upon its banks again. This camp we called “Camp near Stark Farm.” We found a very pleasant camp ground here. The forest trees afforded an abundance of fuel, of which the boys in company A made good use – their camp fires always burned the brightest and attracted the attention of others, who would gather around and listen to the queer stories, sharp jokes and funny songs which were told cracked and sung by the mirth loving fellows of Company A, who are acknowledged to be the merriest boys on the job. When there is any fun going on our boys are always counted in – nor are they one bit behind hand when duty calls. At guard mounting they are most always at the head of the columns, and when we are to march they are always the first to be in the saddle. In other companies you often hear the command, “saddle up,” but in ours they have to “*not saddle*” until the bugle sounds. Much credit is due to our officers, who by their promptness and energy have caused the men to form such habits as will be of great service to both officers and men throughout the campaign. Every day we are gaining favor and praise from those with whom we have fallen in contact. General Curtis said that ours was the largest and best looking company in the lot, when we left Rolla. While we were in camp at Stark Farm, each day one or more companies were sent up to scout through the country. One company brought in two prisoners, sixty head of cattle, a number of sheep and hogs which were going to Price’s army. Most of the country over which we have traveled is covered with a fair growth of wood. The trees are mostly Oak, though there is a good deal of Hickory upon the hills, and considerable many Sycamore trees on the banks of the rivers. Some of these Sycamores are very large, being eight feet through at the butt, and eighty feet high. The land is quite hilly, the soil upon the hills being very shallow and strong, and consequently is unproductive; but in the valleys it is good, and produces fine crops of corn, wheat, oats and tobacco. In the fields of corn which are yet standing, I should judge the yield to be forty or fifty bushels per acre, yet on an average probably the yield would not be so large. I should not think that over one tenth of the land would be of any account for cultivation, the balance being fit for nothing but pastureage – it is good for this purpose as it affords an abundance of wild grass.

Wednesday morning we left Stark Farm and marched towards Rolla a distance of fifteen miles. We are in camp on a branch of the Big Piney, where we have been since Wednesday night. While I have been writing General Osterhaus has arrived with two thousand five hundred infantry and twelve pieces of artillery. Major Wright is within about one mile of us with his battalion of cavalry, in which

is Captain Smith's Company B from the 36<sup>th</sup>. It is probable that a forward movement to Springfield will be made immediately. Price's force at Springfield is estimated at fifteen or twenty thousand. He has four thousand cavalry and about thirty pieces of artillery. There is a rumor that he has retreated, but it is not generally credited here. If he has not and does not retreat, a battle may be expected before many days, and although it may not be fought more bravely, yet it is to be hoped that we shall be more successful than when the gallant Lyon led on our troops only to find for himself a bloody grave. I learn that the good old 36<sup>th</sup> is here, so that we are together once more. Farewell dear Beacon, it may be a long time before I have the privilege of looking over your columns again.

F. O. W.

AB, 2-6-1862

#### LETTERS FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT

Lebanon, Laclede Co., Mo.  
Camp Schadt, Jan. 26, 1862

Dear Beacon; -- Surmising that you have advice from your many friends in the 36<sup>th</sup> up to the time of our arrival at Waynesville, I will endeavor to give you an idea of the progress of events since that time.

Waynesville is the county seat of Pulaski County; contains a brick court house and perhaps a score of painted houses including one or two mercantile establishments where the "*country folks*" of this rough region repair once or twice a year to lay in supplies of the well known staples, tar, salt, whiskey. The luxuries they produce at home, or find them at the "mill" where all the men folks in these parts seem to have gone, according to the tell of the women and children. Some of us are so uncharitable however, as to conjecture that they are at Springfield preparing for the "mill" we hope to treat them to before they return home.

The post office at Waynesville and troops in that vicinity, were under command of Col. Carr, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Illinois Cavalry.

We struck tents at 5 o'clock on Wednesday morning the 22<sup>nd</sup>. We marched ten miles, within four miles of the crossing of the Gasconade River, nearly parallel to which river we had been marching since the first days travel. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry marched with us. Capt. Jenks, being temporarily attached to the regiment, has been with the expedition since that time. We camped on high ground near water, and were up and away at six o'clock. We reached the Gasconade in an hour and a half, and halted a couple of hours for the completion of a foot bridge, when we crossed over dry shod and were again on our way. During the forenoon the

marching was fine, but before we came into camp we had to plod through two miles of about as stiff, persistent ankle deep mud as could be manufactured by the tramp of four or five thousand men and horses. We pitched tents at 12 M, within eight miles of Lebanon, at which place we arrived about 1 P.M. the next day, (Friday the 24<sup>th</sup>).

The country from Waynesville to this point is a repetition of that from Rolla to Waynesville; -- scrub oaks, up hill, limestone rocks; scrub oaks down hill, creeks, deserted cabins, continually repeated, would give a very good idea of what might be casually observed on the route. In some places, however, the scenery is fine, but seldom interspersed with the beauty given it by the enterprise of a thriving community of men. We are now, however, comparatively "out of the wilderness," being camped on the edge of a prairie, which extends away to the north and west into the most fertile part of Missouri. That part is quite well cultivated. While that part of the country south of the Missouri, east of the Gasconade, and north of Ironton and Cape Girardeau, starves out and banishes the agricultural adventurer, there are but very few tracts of equal extent producing in so varying and rich profusion the useful metals. Within the rough, ragged and repulsive hills are stored inexhaustible supplies of iron, and lead, and numerous deposits of copper, nickel and cobalt.

The force now here numbers about 5,000 men. The present understanding is that we shall remain here until joined by all the available forces at Rolla; then push forward and cooperate with the forces from the north under Pope, engaging the enemy now entrenching just this side of Springfield. It will be time enough to tell what we are going to do when we have done it. Being no prophet, and not claiming to be a confidant of the directing powers, I have to tell you that we can only guess at their intentions, and you can guess nearly as well as we.

The most stringent orders have been promulgated against the appropriation of the property of anyone in this vicinity to the use of the army, except by the regular authorities. Foragemasters and Quartermasters take and pay for what is necessary; and vigilant endeavors are made to prevent the further "confiscation" of the property of rebels. Notwithstanding their unscrupulous and total appropriation of all species of property belonging to Union men and the banishment of the persons and their families, this policy of protecting their property is adopted. It is perhaps all right. Although all arms are stacked on the company parade, and all soldiers are arrested who are found outside camp with either public or private fire arms, still, anything in the line of chickens, geese, turkeys, or juvenile swine, in the immediate vicinity of camp, is becoming about as rare as the native butternut colored "copper-buttons" themselves.

Today is Sunday; but under the direction of Col. Osterhaus we had a fine brigade drill of a couple hours this forenoon. Gen Sigel is reported to have arrived

this afternoon. It has been stormy since noon. Quite a “heap” of hail and “right smart” thunder. It is coming off cold and dark.

News from *America* is a luxury not to be even hoped for. All communications intended for persons in the regiment, will be received by directing them to Rolla as heretofore, designating the regiment and company. We are about 65 miles from Rolla, and 55 miles from Springfield. Rolla is our nearest post office.

Do not look for an *immediate* forward move from here, but look to the fact that to move from here is a certainty before a great while.

The health of the regiment is excellent, and the boys are in the very best of spirits, impatient only of having to *wait*. *Waiting*, is played out, mud or no mud, storm or shine, hot or cold.

Hoping that your part of the world is still existing, enjoying it's usual peace and tranquility, I remain yours, all the way

On Foot

WS, 2-12-1862

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REG'T  
FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Camp Schadt, Lebanon, Mo.  
Friday, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 1862

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL :

On Sunday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>, while at Waynesville, Company H was ordered out on duty, as a reserve for the pickets to fall back upon in case they should be attacked by some imaginary foe, for as yet, we were not within thirty miles of any considerable force of the enemy. As we were short of rations, many of the boys sallied forth in search of fresh meat, and during the day, more than half a dozen head of Missouri swine were brought in to our temporary camp, which was justified by the necessity of the case, for self preservation is one of the laws of nature. The condition of these prizes, and their exceeding tenacity of life, inclined all to the opinion, that Missouri hogs are very timid animals, fleet, thin, abounding

in lean meat, and withal hard to kill.

Our supper consisted of hard bread, meat and coffee, and then, with the exception of those on guard, we spread our blankets around the fires, and slept, unmindful of danger. Towards morning there was a slight fall of snow, and we drew our blankets over our faces. On the next day Col. Phelps arrived from Rolla with his regiment. He is Congressman for the Springfield District, and in his regiment there are men from every vicinity in Southwest Missouri. They are in fact going home, and know the ground on which they tread. At Waynesville, a great many of the boys were vaccinated, not by any means because the small pox is prevailing in this part of the army, for it is not. The measure was partly precautionary, and though it should have been done while we were lying still at Rolla, yet it is better now than not at all.

We left Waynesville early in the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the 36<sup>th</sup> taking the lead. The road was quite muddy, and we were in many places obliged to march along on the edges of the road, as best we could. The route lay to the South and West towards Lebanon, and after we had marched about 12 miles, we encamped for the night in a small field fenced with very dry rails. It was a large basin bordered with hills, on the sides of which the various regiments were encamped, and at night, as I looked out, I could see the hundreds of camp fires glimmering in the darkness.

On Thursday we made an easy march of twelve miles, crossing the Gasconade during the day. The route over which we traveled was much better than we had previously seen. Along it, at intervals, were scattered here and there, some very respectable looking farm houses, and when we arrived at the Gascinate, the banks of which were lined with huge Sycamores, we found a flat boat which was formerly used for ferrying. With the aid of the boat, a rude bridge was constructed, and on it we crossed the river. It is a rapid stream, the water cold and clear as crystal, about fifty yards in width, and two or three feet in depth. This night the name of our camp was Willis, in honor of our Adjutant.

Friday we reached Lebanon, seven miles distant, the county seat of LaClede County, and a little more than half way from Rolla to Springfield. It is situated on a gentle elevation of ground on the edge of a small prairie, and in its palmy days, contained about a thousand inhabitants. It is now half deserted. The inhabitants were principally secessionists and though there were at least a dozen stores in the place, there is only one now open. We passed through the place and camped about half a mile to the westward. The region about here is well adapted to farming, and in fact as we have neared Springfield, the quality of the land has been continually improving.

On Sunday we had a brigade drill and review, Col. Osterhaus commanding. There were in attendance the 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Mo., and two batteries of

Artillery.

Tuesday was a wet, rainy, disagreeable day. Company H was sent out on picket duty. At night it commenced snowing, and on the next morning, the snow was about two inches deep, and still falling. Our boys had a rough time. They were exposed to the storm during the night, and when they came back, presented rather a sorry sight. For the past few days, the weather has been cold and chilly. Yesterday, it rained and snowed. The roads are now in a very bad condition, and it requires a great amount of labor to haul provisions from Rolla to this place. The Quartermaster is now engaging in buying and seizing the wheat in the vicinity, which is ground at a steam mill in this place, and issued to the troops. However, as we have no facilities for baking it, we greatly prefer hard bread.

Two of our number, Agnew and Mansfield, have been dispatched with a team to Rolla. They intend to bring back a load of saleratus, and started yesterday. They will probably be absent about eight days.

Papers, stamps and stationery, are very scarce here, and I am much inclined to the opinion that our papers are stopped at Rolla on account of their bulk. No Sentinels have been received since we reached Waynesville.

There is a rumor current today that Price is retreating, but I do not credit it. However, a large force of cavalry has been dispatched to annoy him, and Major Wright, in command, says if he needs aid, he will send for the 36<sup>th</sup>. Gen. Curtis has arrived in town with the Iowa 4<sup>th</sup> and Mo. 24<sup>th</sup>. Several other regiments are either on the road or encamped near here. You will doubtless have noticed that since we left Rolla our Band which remained, has been discharged.

Very truly yours, H.

AB, 2-13-1862

#### LETTER FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT

Camp Shaudt, Lebanon, Mo.,

Jan. 26, 1862

Dear Beacon; O—Here we are at Lebanon, eighty miles south west of Rolla, on our road towards Dixie. We arrived here on Friday, safe and sound. The road from Rolla here is one of the most desolate and dreary that I have ever traveled. The country is a miserable, rough, rocky, broken, worthless wilderness. The inhabitants are principally of southern origin, and all belong to the lowest class of Missouri butternuts. They all live in log houses, the most of which are *two stories on the ground*, unchinked and unmudded. The influential men – that is, the wealthiest farmers, usually have from ten to twenty acres under cultivation. Their houses generally occupy a central position on the farm. Their fences are all made of rails, without stakes or riders; a gate or pair of bars would be a novelty indeed,

in this section. Men, women, children and animals are all taught to jump or climb fences in this State. What ever induced these people to locate in this wilderness is more than I can conceive. The principle business seems to be to live – they succeed and even propagate. It seems the most like that Baptist fellow spoken in the Bible, -- living on “locusts and honey,” with the locusts and honey left out, -- of anything that I have experienced. If I ever live to get out of Missouri with a whole hide, my word for it, I will never trouble the State again, as soldier or civilian.

We are now camped on the Springfield road west of Lebanon. How long we are to remain, I cannot tell. We are now in the enemy’s country, forty one miles from Price’s army. Price is said to be ten miles this side of Springfield, with some fifteen thousand men. The prospects for a fight are improving. Price promises to stand if we do not bring too large a force. Our proposition is to give him *three* to one; if he accepts the proposition then we have a fight. We are ready for the occasion, and Massa Price must fight soon or else withdraw. Our regiment is still in General Osterhaus’ division. We had our first brigade drill this afternoon. Col. Osterhaus at once placed the 36<sup>th</sup> at the right of the brigade. This, I think speaks well for the 36<sup>th</sup> as well as the magnanimity of the setting General. General Osterhaus is a well drilled soldier and a gentleman; and if the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment should happen to be placed in his brigade permanently, all will be well and satisfactory with us. Everybody here that is well informed in military matters agree that the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment is the best drilled and disciplined regiment in the volunteer service. We have been told so many times by authorities that can not be denied, that we now claim to be the banner volunteer regiment of the State of Illinois. We are ready and willing to drill with any Illinois regiment at any time, any place and for any am’t they may name.

We were all greatly astonished when we received the *Beacon* and read your article, placing the 18<sup>th</sup> Illinois Regiment ahead of the 36<sup>th</sup>. Well we were indeed greatly astonished, and could only account for so great a blunder in your judgment, by supposing that Col. Wyman’s *coffee* must have been *stronger* than ours, although we supposed ours strengthened and sweetened for the occasion. Allow me to advise you to procure Hardee’s Tactics, and study them well, before you write another article on the comparative drill of regiments. In your present uneducated condition you will be liable to commit many such errors as abound in your article. I have always heretofore had much confidence in your judgment and opinions; but this one staggers me.

You can scarcely imagine the delight and relief experienced and expressed by the regiment, when they found that they had got rid of the regimental band. The band had played three old pieces so often, and so much, that every man in the regiment could whistle and sing these, and consequently they (the tunes) became

unpleasant. The band boys at first blamed their old instruments; they said that they were not *progressive* instruments. Upon hearing this fact we soon raised a subscription of five hundred dollars toward the "Old Man" to Saint Louis, with instructions to procure new and *progressive* instruments, with appropriate music too. In due time the instruments and music came, and we anticipated a sort of millennium in the way of new music. But most unfortunately, when the band boys came to examine their instruments and music, they found instruments to be educated , progressive instruments, and that it required labor to keep pace with them. This, to a majority of them, was decidedly obnoxious. They had joined the army to get rid of laboring. The majority in this, like in all other matters, controlled, and so our regimental band fell back upon their old pieces. This discouraged and disgusted the boys, and they persuaded the band to petition to be discharged. The band petitioned and the petition was granted. The boys were so delighted with the idea of returning to their friends, that through a *mistake* they took those new and progressive instruments belonging to the regiment to St. Louis with them, and I really believe that if it had not been for the Provost Marshall at St. Louis, they would have encumbered themselves with those instruments clear to their homes. Strange isn't it.

(Is not our correspondent drawing on his imagination a little? It seems to us that he is.) Eds. Beacon.

The health of the regiment is good! The weather is fine and pleasant, no frost in the ground. Sigel is expected to join us today. After this we fight mit Sigel, and no mistake. Bully for Sigel and Greusel. Send me Beacons.

I want you to publish every word of the above, and oblige yours of Dixie.

One of the Boys

AB, 2-20-1862

#### LETTER FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT

The following are the concluding portions of a long letter we lately received from one of our correspondents in the advance from Rolla. The letter should have been printed last week, but it came too late. Events transpiring since it was written, renders a portion of its contents useless to our readers:

Camp Schadt, Lebanon, Mo.,  
February 4, 1862

Editor Beacon; -- We are having considerable talk in regard to the proposed senatorial amendments to the army officer's pay. We have read and discussed these proposed reductions of our pay, quite thoroughly, and the majority of us have

sort of come to a conclusion, that it requires about as much brains to conduct a military campaign and quite as much physical courage and endurance to undertake and endure such a campaign in these southern wildernesses, as it does to board and drink a whiskey at Willards in the District of Columbia. We will consent to have our pay and mileage reduced to the same amount of the Senators and Representatives. The proposed bill allows the Senators and Representatives ten cents a mile and all army officers six cents a mile. Why this difference? Does it not cost an army officer, of the same number of pounds, just as much to travel to Washington, as it does a congressman? In a word, if the proposed amendments pass, you may look for a pretty general resigning among the army officers, especially in this western department. If those negro stealing, dictating politicians in Washington desire to create any further discord let them persevere in their infernal meanness. We have men here, right among us, who have gained and maintained quite a respectable reputation as representatives in congress, who are now trying their hands at commanding home guard regiments, and thus far, are regular laughing stocks for the balance of the regiments.

Quite an amusing incident took place here the other day, between one of Captain Miller's privates – Johnny G-----, and one of these home guard Colonels, who is said to be the father of the house of representatives. Captain Miller's company were on picket guard, and one of the boys sat on the ground eating his soup, when the Col., who was grand field officer of the day, rode up and demanded of Johnny – “What are your orders?” Johnny looked at him as only Johnny can look, and replied, “To keep these copper buttons from passing in and out here.” The Col. shaggrinned immediately inquired “Who do you call copper buttons here, sir?” Johnny replied in his peculiar style, “These natives around here.” The Col. rode on fully convinced that Johnny's instructions were ample for the situation.

The health of the regiment is good. I regret to inform you that Lieutenant W. H. Clark is still quite sick at Rolla, at last accounts he was improving. He is missed from the regiment more than any man in it would be. Clark is the very embodiment of a good fellow, besides being one of the best officers in the regiment. I believe that he abounds in patriotism equal to any man in the service. He wept like a child when he found that he could not go with the regiment when it left Rolla.

Capt. Jenks and his men are still running and guarding Bennett's Mill. There is where we get our flour. His boys are all well.

Tattle Tale

## **Advance on Springfield, Missouri, February 2-13, 1862**

## **Pursuit of Price into Arkansas, February 14-29, 1862**

*EG, 3-5-1862*

### **FROM THE THIRTY SIXTH**

We have been permitted to make the following extract from a private letter written by 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. George Sherman, of Co. "A."

Camp Osage Spring, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Since I wrote to you from Lebanon we have marched one hundred and fifty miles, and are now encamped 25 miles from the Mo. line, near Bentonville, Benton County, Arkansas, and shall probably remain here about four weeks. We have cleared Mo. of rebel troops without a pitched battle, and only a few -----  
----- arrived 8 miles from Springfield about sundown, when Price, hearing of our force being greater than he expected, began his retreat, and sent a regiment out five miles to engage our advance, so as to gain time. At first it was supposed that Price was coming out to attack us, and we were ordered to strip ourselves for a fight, which we did in short order; and though we had marched 25 miles, and was tired and hungry, when we heard the firing, every man forgot hunger and fatigue, and all seemed anxious for a fight. The firing soon ceased, and we encamped for the night. The next day our advance arrived in Springfield, three hours after Price's rear guard had left. Then began a chase which Price will not be likely to forget for some time, and which will be likely to prevent his ever coming back into the State again. Our advance had several brushes with Price's rear guard. The most important one occurred on Sugar Creek. We killed 70 of his men and took 16 prisoners. Our loss was 15 men of the Mo. Cavalry, since which time, we have given up all hopes of catching him. It is supposed he has gone to Fort Smith, on the Arkansas River. Whether we shall go there or not, no one can tell. We were 8 miles from the last fight when it commenced, and could hear the cannonading distinctly. We took a double quick, and kept the artillery horses on a trot for five miles, when the firing ceased, and we pitched our tents for the night. The 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment is called the best in the Western Department, and have the name of the

flying infantry. The boys all stood the march tip top. They are all well. We have been short of rations, but a train is expected in to night, and we shall be all right again.

In the foothills of the Boston Mountains, Sterling Price had been joined by the forces of Ben McCulloch, as well as those of Albert Pike, who brought with him pro-Confederate Indians from the Oklahoma Territory. Major General Earl Van Dorn had been given over-all command, and the audacious Van Dorn had resolved to fall upon Curtis and take him by surprise. The result was the Battle of Pea Ridge.

*AB, 3-6-1862*

The 36<sup>th</sup> are in General Sigel's Brigade, and were on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of last month, at or near Cross Hollow, Arkansas. The last heard from them leaves the impression that the whole army, under General Curtis are to remain in that region until reinforced. Their probable destination is Fort Smith. Captain Jenks has command of a squadron of cavalry, and led the advance of Sigel's brigade in their march from Springfield in pursuit of Price. The letters received from the 36<sup>th</sup> say that there is but little sickness in the regiment. Col. Greusel has been acting Brigadier with his own regiment, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Missouri volunteers, Capt. Jenks squadron of cavalry, Wiltley's St. Louis, and Hoffman's Cincinnati Batteries under his command.

*EG, 3-12-1862*

FROM THE THIRTY SIXTH

Camp on Sugar Creek Benton Co.  
Ark. Wednesday, Feb. 19, 1862

I suppose by this time you are a little anxious to hear how the boys of the 36<sup>th</sup> are getting along in their chase after Price. I would have written sooner, but there has been no opportunity of sending a mail; and even now, I am not certain that the letter will reach you.

Well, let us commence at the beginning. We left Lebanon on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. with about 15,000 men, in two divisions, one under Sigel and the other commanded by General Curtis. We are the 2d brigade of Sigel's division. Our brigade is composed of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Mo., 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. and two batteries, under the command of Col. Greusel of the 36<sup>th</sup>, Col. Joslyn being in command of the regiment. Everything in the line of baggage was cut down to the lowest notch. The men were obliged to leave their knapsacks, and the officers their trunks, so that none of us have a change of clothing with us. Only fourteen teams were allowed to our regiment, which is but half what we had before, and then we thought we hadn't enough. Five tents to a company were all that were allowed to be carried, which gave one tent to from 16 to 20 men. We quartermaster boys had a team and were by ourselves, however, so that we were not so much crowded.

Only six day's provisions were taken along. The first day we marched 17 miles, and camped on one of Sigel's old camp grounds. The next day we had bad roads and marched only 13 miles, camping at Marshfield, the county seat of Webster County. Wright's cavalry were the advance guard, and at this place they had a little skirmish with a secesh company who were guarding a steam mill – two of the rebels were killed. The town was strongly secesh, and the day before we arrived, the C. S. flag was flying on the public square; when I went through, the Stars and Stripes were in their place. A good many houses were burned by our boys – or rather by the “Dutch” in this place. The third day we marched 16 miles. We rather expected a skirmish this day, as we knew we should drive in Price's pickets; so when we got out three or four miles the boys were halted and ordered to load their guns. The day was very warm and by the time we reached our camping ground, which was in a valley between two hills, we were tired out completely. We had just reached the camp and broken ranks, when we heard quick sharp firing, with musketry a little beyond us on the hill. Immediately the bugles sounded “to arms” and the drums beat the “long roll to fall in.” You may believe there was some hurry and excitement then; but the boys forgot that they were tired and hungry, and stripped off everything but their jackets and formed in line splendidly. The firing grew sharper and presently we heard the “bull dogs” begin to growl in the distance. We thought we were in for it surely, as we were only 8 miles from Springfield, and we expected Price had his whole force drawn out to meet us. But there was no flinching among the boys of the 36<sup>th</sup> – they only hoped and preyed that Price was going to fight. Presently the firing ceased, and our cavalry and artillery returned, reporting a force of two regiments only, who retreated after an exchange of shots. We were ordered to sleep on our arms, and be ready to march at three o'clock in the morning – no tents being allowed to be put up. The roads had been very bad that day, and the teams did not get in till 11 o'clock, so I “went to bed” about nine, supperless, and without even so much as a blanket to cover me.

But I wrapped myself up in my overcoat as well as I could, slept in that way a couple of hours, when, our teams having come in, I got up, got a cup of coffee – which you may believe tasted good – and then rolled myself up in my blanket and went to sleep again. At two o'clock we were called up again and at four our division left; the teams did not leave till 7 a.m., however, and I received orders after I had started with the regiment to stay with them.

Well, when we reached Springfield, we found that “our bird had flown” the night before. Our boys were very much disappointed but consoled themselves by thinking he hadn't got much the start of them, and that we could soon catch him. We camped the night – which was very cold – on his old grounds.

Springfield is a very pretty place about the size of St. Charles, Ill., but four out of every five of the houses were deserted; and nearly every house along the road between this place and Lebanon has also been deserted. Many of these the boys have burned. The Court House, and two large churches in Springfield are used for hospitals, and there are a great many sick in them.

We left Springfield the next morning, marching that day 18 miles. On the road I saw three dead bodies – secesh – where our advances had a skirmish with Price's pickets. One of them had his skull smashed in, and his face disfigured, and was a sickening sight to look at. The 15<sup>th</sup> we marched 25 miles. Our advances had several little skirmishes this day, and brought in several teams and prisoners. This night we also slept on the ground without our tents. It was a pretty cold night and I only got about two hours sleep. The infantry left again at three a.m. and the teams at 4:30. Our rations were now out, and since then we have had to depend upon “Providence” for our “grub.”

The 16<sup>th</sup> we marched 23 miles, camping at Cassville, the county seat of Barry County, Mo. Thirty five prisoners were here brought in by Gen. Davis' brigade, which was in the advance, and they were lodged in the court house for safe keeping.

We procured a small supply of flour here – about half a pound per man. Of beef, we have plenty of course. We left Cassville the next morning again at 8 o'clock, and marched 15 miles this day, passing through Keetsville, which, like every other village we have passed through, was mostly deserted. We crossed the line into Arkansas this day, and camped about a mile the other side – a mile and a half from water. I walked that far after dark for a coffee pot full so that we could make coffee; and when I got it, it was half mud. Coffee is worth more than anything else to a soldier on a march.

We had heard heavy firing, at intervals, all day, which we afterwards found out was between Gen. Curtis' advance and Price's rear guard. The next day, which was yesterday, we came up to “Sugar Creek,” which was near where the skirmish took place, and found Gen. Curtis' division encamped here; so we went into camp

also, and are having a rest today, for the first time since we left Lebanon. I rode up to see the battle ground which is about two miles from where we are camped, and it looks considerably like a battle. Nine of our boys were killed, and several wounded. Dead bodies were strewed all over the ground, to the number of 25 or 30, I should think. Large limbs were torn off the trees, and one house was somewhat riddled. Two flags of truce arrived in camp yesterday with surgeons, looking for the dead and wounded. They acknowledge the loss of 80 men. The first Iowa battery, which was in the fight, was camped close by, and I met Cousin Dan Lee. He says they lost two of their horses and had one of their wheels broken, but suffered no further injury.

I presume the chase is given up for the present; but whether we are to go on to Fort Smith, 85 miles from here, or whether we are to go back to Springfield, I don't know. At any rate we are to leave in the morning for somewhere.

Our boys have been living on half rations for some time, and half of them are barefooted, and there is no chance to get provisions or shoes if we march forward. If you could see how we have to live you would consider us more objects of charity, than some of the poor at home. Nevertheless our health continues good, and I feel as well as I did when at home.

There is a report that Charley Harvey and two other 36<sup>th</sup> boys, who were coming through with a wagon, are taken prisoners; and as he ought to have been up long ago, I rather think it's true.

Well, I can't write any more at present. We haven't received any letters or papers since we left Lebanon, and we are in total ignorance of what is happening in America.

I'll write again as soon as I have an opportunity.  
A. Keyes.

### **Battles of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, March 6-8, 1862**

When the battle opened, the Fox River Regiment was at Bentonville, Arkansas, with the rest of Sigel's command. Sam Curtis and the main body of the Union Army was just a few miles away, strung out along Little Sugar Creek, facing south, with Pea Ridge looming behind it.

Curtis was expecting a formal assault. Instead, Van Dorn attacked him from Pea Ridge in the rear. If he had hit him earlier on that fog shrouded morning of March 7<sup>th</sup> he might have swept him from the field. But Van Dorn's men were tired from their three day march and the attack did not get under way until 10 a.m. By that time, Curtis had discovered what was about to happen, and swung his men around

in time to meet the Confederates head on.

In the mean time, Sigel had been marching to the sound of the guns, coming from Bentonville to reinforce Curtis. The 36<sup>th</sup> tumbled into the fray in time to blunt Ben McCulloch's drive against the Union left wing. It was there, along a split rail fence, that Private Peter Pelican of the 36<sup>th</sup> saw a tall officer in black velvet wearing a plumed hat advancing on horseback at the head of Confederate infantry. Quietly drawing a bead with his rifled musket, Pelican sent the imposing figure toppling from his saddle. The man in black velvet was General Ben McCulloch himself. The Fox River Regiment could claim credit for having slain the highest ranking Confederate to fall in the war thus far.

Company E of the 36<sup>th</sup> was finally forced back in the face of withering fire, having become the object of enemy sharp shooters when it undertook to protect a couple of artillery batteries. With the retreat of Company E around 3 p.m., the rest of the regiment also fell back, firing as they withdrew. But, the Southern drive had halted, its momentum spent.

The fighting resumed the next day at 1 p.m., when the Fox River boys were shifted to the right wing. It was there that Colonel Greusel, who had led his men on foot during the entire battle, was nearly decapitated by a stray Confederate cannon ball that whizzed past his head and killed a private behind him.

The 36<sup>th</sup> then led the way, along with the 17<sup>th</sup> Missouri and the 44<sup>th</sup> Illinois, in the climactic infantry charge up Pea Ridge in front of Elk Horn Tavern.

Pea Ridge was the biggest battle in the West up until then. No regiment in Sam Curtis' army had played a greater role in that battle, which saved Missouri for the Union, than the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois.

*GCH 3-19-1862*

#### WOUNDED

From Arkansas, we learn that none of our men in Captain Parkhurst's company, were killed. Several of them are wounded. We give their names below.

Thos. Oleson, left thigh broken.

Edward Lyon, left thigh broken.

C. Pratt, shot in left shoulder.

Thomas McComb, (probably meant Malcomb), shot in left hand.

David Broadwell, (unintelligible)

AB, 3-20-1862

## THE BATTLE OF PEA RIDGE, ARKANSAS

Full particulars of the battle at Pea Ridge, Arkansas did not reach us until late yesterday, and we are therefore compelled to go to press without publishing more than a brief summary of what occurred to our own boys of the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment. It seems that the 36<sup>th</sup> bore an important part in the engagement, although but few were killed and wounded. Captain Silas Miller, of Company B, distinguished himself by exhibitions of great valor, and his company suffered more than any other of the regiment. Capt. Parkhurst, of Morris, was also among the foremost of those of the 36<sup>th</sup> in the engagement. A private in Capt. Miller's company by the name of Peter Pellican, has the credit of killing Ben McCulloch, from whom he took a valuable watch now in the possession of Col. Greusel.

Capt. Smith of Co. B, cavalry, with his company and the aid of a detachment of infantry, took several prisoners on the first day of the fight. Among them several officers.

On the first day the fight was opened by Gen. Sigel's Brigade. After the fight had raged about two hours his command was completely surrounded. Detaching a few companies of cavalry to protect his rear he ordered his artillery forward to meet the enemy in front. Capt. Jenk's company of cavalry was ordered to support the artillery. Sigel, dismounting from his horse, personally superintended the placing of the guns. Turning to Capt. Jenks, he said, "Captain, the enemy are on our front, on either side of us." And says the account, he raised his hand to a level with his shoulder, and bringing it down with each sentence, exclaimed, "We must advance; we must cut our way through; *We shall cut our way through!*" The result of the days fight shows how faithfully he kept his word.

Twenty two of Captain Miller's company were taken prisoners on the first day of the fight, among them his 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, Walker, and Peter Douglas, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant. *Peter Douglas was the first man that enlisted from Aurora.* The following is the list of killed and wounded in the 36<sup>th</sup>.

### KILLED

Ira Fuller,	co. E
Paul Stephenson,	co. F
James H. Harrison,	co. C
John Ray,	co. E

### WOUNDED

Ernst Ansorg,		co. B	
William Gibson,	co. C,		right arm amputated at shoulder.
Andrew Schofield, Corporal	co. D,		right arm broken.
Thomas Olson,	co. G,		left thigh broken.
Edward Lyoo,	co. G,		left thigh broken.
George Miller,	co. B,		in left hip.
C. Pratt,	co. G,		left shoulder.
James Eddy,		co. B,	in left hip.
Frank Lee,	co. C,		in right temple.
Thomas Boyd,	co. B,		through right thigh.
Thomas McComb,	co. G,		through left hand.
Wm. Van Ohlen,	co. B,		in abdomen.
Oliver Brownlee, corporal	co. B,		through right arm.
C. M. Kemble,	co. B,		through neck.
Henry Hoag,	co. C,		through left arm.
W. E. Partridge,	co. F,		through left arm.
David Bordwell,	co. G,		in left hip.
Louis Jones,	co. G,		through right leg.
Dyer Clark,	co. G,		through left leg.
W. M. Stut,	co. G,		through right ankle.
Wm. L. Campbell,	co. B,		in right leg.
Alex M. Stut,	co. G,		through the left leg.
Francis Sampson,	co. K,		through the knee.
S. H. McCartney,	co. ,		in the forehead.
Charles Cox,	co. A,		in right thigh.
Orrin Pickett,	co. H,		in abdomen mortally.
Franklin Small,	co. G,		in left arm,
John Dix Bennett, corporal	co. G,		in right thigh.
Robert N. Thompson,	co. B,		in left side.
James McCreary,	co. K,		in right side.

The reports of the division commanders will give more full details of this three days fight, when we shall learn of the individual deeds of valor and fuller accounts of killed, wounded and missing,

Camp Rose Hill, Benton Co.  
Ark., March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1862

Another splendid victory is added to our increasing list, and the clouds which for a time overshadowed us are breaking away, disclosing to our view a brighter and more glorious future. The opportunity, for which our boys have longed, hoped and begged for, has at length been presented to them, and they have proved themselves worthy the confidence which has been placed in them by their commanders and this great nation. General Price left Springfield in double quick time, when he received the news of the approach of the Federal troops, and Springfield was again in our possession, without the loss of a man. General Curtis immediately started in pursuit – broke into his rear guard and captured some of his troops, among them was Col. Freeman, and a part of his train. We drove him down into the state, but were unable to surround him. The first engagement of any account, was at Sugar Creek. Price planted his battery on a hill, and fired into our advance, and in turn was charged upon by our cavalry under command of Col. Lewis. In this engagement our loss was nine killed and eleven wounded, four mortally. This took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February. Here our army was halted and we have been in camp at different places in this county ever since. At that time General Price was reinforced by McCulloch's force, and it was his Texas troops that did us so much damage in this skirmish. They were in the bushes on both sides of the road, and fired upon our boys as they charged up the hill through their lines, a distance of two miles. Their loss was known to be greater than ours, but they succeeded in removing the greater part of their dead after our men were ordered back; I counted seventeen horses lying dead along the road where the action took place. March 12<sup>th</sup>. General Sigel moved his Division six miles southeast of Bentonville, to Camp Cooper, where we remained until the night of the 15<sup>th</sup>. The most of General Curtis' force was at Cross Hollow and at Mudtown, about eighteen miles east of Camp Cooper. At nine o'clock on Wednesday evening, we received orders to be ready to march at two in the morning, and were ready at the time specified; there was some delay in the moving of the train, and as we were to form a part of the rear guard we did not move until after daylight. We entered Bentonville a little after sunrise, and were ordered to halt there for an hour for a few wagons and men who had fallen a short distance behind.

We unbridled our horses, and fed them and were warming ourselves by some fires, when a large and steadily increasing force of cavalry made their appearance upon a broad piece of prairie south east of the town. The general impression was that we were marching to rejoin General Curtis' Division, and when these troops made their appearance we took it for granted that they were a portion of his command. When they were within about half a mile of us they broke

to the right and left, moving at a rapid rate to points about one mile from each side of the town upon the main road. It was not until this movement that we had the least suspicion that they were enemies; and then the thought suggested itself to our mind that General Curtis might be deceived, and thinking that we were a body of the enemy, endeavoring to surround us. They continued to move towards us in quick time, from all points, and as they drew near to the town, General Sigel came out and raised his glass, and looked but for a moment, and then turning to his aids exclaimed with great coolness: "They have blue blankets. He is my bosom friend," and then turning around ordered the cavalry to mount their horses and the infantry to fall into line. What could all this mean? Was it possible that those men who had retreated so ingloriously before us from Springfield to the interior of Arkansas, had returned to *attack us*? All doubts were quickly removed from our minds, for they were now within a distance of *fifty rods* of us and here they halted, looked at us for a moment and then defiantly unfurled the beautiful flag the stars and the bars were floating gracefully before us. We now came to the conclusion that "Mr. Secesh," had got his "Irish up," and that it was about time our horses had their bridles on. In a moment all was in readiness for the attack, but not a gun was fired. There must have been at least ten thousand of the enemy upon the prairie, and in the woods, while there were of cavalry and infantry and artillery, not over *eight hundred, all told*. The column was ordered to move on, and as we passed out of the village, the rebels entered it; and when we had moved up the hill upon the east side of the town and a number of companies of cavalry had formed in line of battle upon the open field, a large number of the enemy were formed in line just opposite of us, in Bentonville, but not a shot was fired between us. The firing now commenced towards the head of the column, which formed the rear guard of Sigel's division.

Further on towards Sugar Creek, a part of Capt. Miller's Company B, infantry of the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois, were guarding an ammunition wagon, and endeavoring to catch up with the main body of the army, when about 900 rebel cavalry, came in between them and us, and ordered them to lay down their arms. None of their commissioned officers were with them, as Capt. Miller was acting as Major of the 36<sup>th</sup>. Lieutenant Campbell was Provost Marshall and lieutenant Walker was back at Bentonville. Sergeant Douglas formed his men in line and they delivered up their arms and were taking off their cartridge boxes when a portion of the 2d Mo. came up, and attacked the rebels. This drew their attention from the prisoners a moment, and thus some of the company sprang into the bushes, and although a volley was fired at them, all but twenty six escaped. Among the prisoners are Serg't. Peter Douglas, and Corp. William Dougan. I have not learned the names of the rest. Lieut. Walker came on about two miles this side of Bentonville with the artillery, where I saw him and spoke with him. When he found that his boys

were taken prisoners he hurried back and has not been heard of since.

When we were about three fourths of a mile this side of Bentonville, the rebels were on our right and their line was not over eighty rods from us in the heavy timber. There were bushes by the side of the road, and then an open space between us and them. Gen. Sigel had a battery planted, and ordered the cavalry to its right and left to support it. The first shell that was fired dropped into the enemy's line and killed five of the secesh. After firing a few rounds, not one of them was to be seen. Again we heard firing ahead and we were surrounded once more; but the infantry cut their way through and we moved on. A battery was kept in the rear, which prevented an attack from that quarter. We had gone but a short distance further, when the enemy were discovered upon both sides of the road in great numbers, and as this was the third time which they had surrounded us, they seemed determined to cut off our retreat. It was impossible to use the artillery, as it was in a deep ravine, and they had the advantage of us on every side – but Gen. Sigel, with that coolness which characterizes his every move in times of greatest danger, sent skirmishers upon the sides of the hill to fire and thus protect and hide the movements of the column, and after he had marched some of his infantry through the ravine, and then those companies which were with us guarding the artillery, were ordered to charge up the hill. As they did so the moment they came into sight, the rebels exclaimed hurrah for Jeff Davis and fired a volley into their ranks. The secesh had no sooner done this however, than they received a heavy fire in their rear by those troops which Sigel had ordered ahead, and then sent around to flank the enemy. The firing was heavy and brisk. At one time the rebels started to rush down upon us through a hollow which led down into the ravine from our left; the bullets whistled around us and rattled like hailstones, cutting off the twigs from the trees by the side of the road, and we expected that in another moment they would be upon us; but just then a company of brave fellows who were fighting upon the hill, brought their muskets to a left oblique and fired volley after volley upon the wretches, until they were glad to retreat. None of our company were touched; but quite a number of the infantry who fought on the hill, fired their last shot. We soon arrived upon an eminence where a battery was planted, and after a few shells were fired at the rebels they fled and we saw no more of them that night.

It was a beautiful sight to behold the manner in which Gen. Sigel maneuvered with his forces, and the different positions in which he placed them while passing a dangerous point, in order to guard against any surprise.

We arrived at Sugar Creek about 5 o'clock, where we found Gen. Curtis with his Division, and the main part of Gen. Sigel's. Our loss was very small, considering the dangers through which we passed, and the greatest praise is due to Gen. Sigel, who every man says, is the only man who could have got us out of the

snare into which we had fallen, and who is the only man whom the troops have *implicit* confidence in. Just his presence among the troops at that time, was of more benefit than four regiments of armed men. Capt. Jenks had four of his men taken prisoners; three of whom were on guard at the houses in the vicinity of our old camp and were obliged to stay while the whole army had moved away. Their names are Arnold Sarbrock, Lawrence Tucker, Allen Mowry and Edward Stewart. I have not learned how many were lost on that day (Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>).

Gen. Curtis selected a very strong position at Sugar Creek, and the troops went to work upon the hills throwing up entrenchments, planting masked batteries and making preparation to give the enemy a warm reception; but Gen. Van Dorn, who had command of all the rebel troops was too sharp to come into our trap, and chose to select his own ground. During the night he marched his troops around us on the left, and in the morning one of his Divisions, under Gen. McCulloch, was north of us, at Leesburg,, and the other, under Price, was at the telegraph road at the Elkhorn Tavern, north west of us. We were again hemmed in by a force estimated at from thirty five to fifty thousand, and we had only about twelve thousand. On Friday, the 7<sup>th</sup> all felt that there must be fighting done, and the enemy as well as ourselves, were in sober earnest about the matter. Our men made the first advance. Gen. Sigel's Division was to contend with McCulloch's and Gen. Curtis with Price's. At about 7 o'clock the Freemont Hussars and a flying battery started on to Leesburg. As they passed through the village and entered the timber, several regiments who were lying in ambush, sprang to their feet and fired volley after volley into them, until the horses became perfectly unmanageable. Some of them threw their riders and others turned in the wildest confusion, rushing back upon the road up which they came. The artillery men tried to turn around with their pieces, but the road was so narrow and the brush so thick that they could not manage their horses, and then one of the tongues were broken and the men were obliged to jump from their pieces and run for their lives; thus three pieces of the artillery fell into the hands of the rebels the first thing in the morning, and they immediately loaded them and fired upon our boys while they were retreating. Our infantry then came up and the rebels fell back until they came to an open field and here they planted a battery about twenty rods from the woods on the east side of the field. They had no sooner done this that the rebels made their appearance on the right side of our men, charged upon them and took two more of our cannon. Our men were again falling into confusion when Col. Greusel came up with the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois and the 12<sup>th</sup> Mo. He rallied those who were retreating, marched the 36<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup> into the field, retook the guns and opened such a fire upon them that they fled in every direction. They rallied again and the fight raged hotter than ever; as they were scattered through the woods in all directions Capt. Miller was sent out with two companies to act as skirmishers; while out in action, one of his

men Mr. P. Pelakin, shot, Gen. McCulloch and took a gold watch from his pocket. He was wounded while doing so. I believe Gen. Sigel has the watch. I think he has done his part in the war. During the day Gen. McIntosh was killed, and McCulloch's division was completely routed; and at night they fled leaving Gen. Sigel's army to occupy the battlefield. Gen. Curtis' Division was not as successful. They fought bravely all day disputing every inch of ground which they were able to occupy, until about dark, when they were obliged to retreat to the ground which they occupied in the morning. The men were somewhat discouraged, but a report was circulated that news had been received from Gen. Hunter, and that he would be with us in the morning. This gave the men new courage, for the work which was before them; for they expected that harder fighting would be done Saturday than they had yet seen.

Saturday morning our men opened the fight with their artillery, but were obliged to retreat at first; they were soon supported by the infantry, and then the fight became general. Price could not get a fair position for his batteries and consequently they were of but little benefit to him. Our batteries did great execution; wherever they were aimed, the rebels were found in piles of from three to twelve, all mangled in a shocking manner. Some had either hands or arms shot off, some had their limbs mangled or broken, some were shot through the body, and some through the head, of which nothing was left but the shattered skull; the fight lasted until about 11 o'clock, when the rebels retreated, and the cannonading ceased. The rebels fled in every direction, throwing away their guns, cartridge boxes, caps and blankets, never stopping to find out whether we are pursuing or not. The artillery went as far as Keatsville, on the telegraph road, where they struck off to the right. Their caissons were left along the road on the right and the left; and two wagon loads of guns and muskets were picked up on the road. It is reported that we have taken twenty pieces of artillery.

After the fight was over our troops commenced bringing in prisoners. We found them in the woods and in the houses in every direction; but all were without their arms. We have taken a great many officers, some of high rank. They all state that they did not expect that it would take over half an hour to conquer and take us prisoners. Hundreds of men were in their ranks who went in for the battle, *just to save their lives* as they were told that if they were taken by us in their homes, they would be killed. These men were armed with shot guns and rifles; but the Texans and Louisiana troops were armed with muskets, principally some of which had flint-locks. The rebels tried every possible way to conceal their dead. Sometimes they would throw them into holes and cover them with leaves; and Friday night they moved them into the woods with a wheelbarrow, where they dug large holes and buried a lot of them together. The dead were scattered through the timber in every direction, their faces hands and clothes smeared with blood, and a most

horrid expression upon their countenances.

The most barbarous of all was the brutal manner in which the rebels used our dead when they had possession of the field after the fight. Some were stripped entirely of their clothing, and there was not a man whose boots they had not pulled off. They took whatever could be found in our boys pockets and one young man told me that they kicked his brother, who was wounded, after they had taken his arms and money, because he did not have more. The Indians under McIntosh, scalped those whom they killed, and took their scalp away with them. Every house is now occupied by the wounded, and there are a great many in the tents; our ambulances were used to convey the secesh as well as our own wounded to the hospitals, where they could find shelter and medical attendance. We have fine weather and everything is a favorable as can be for their distress. Gen. Reins was severely wounded, and Gen. Price was slightly wounded in the hand. None of our Generals but Asboth received any wounds, and his was but slight. From the best information I can get we have about nine hundred men killed, wounded and missing, and the loss of the rebels is about two thousand killed and wounded, and a large part of their army will come up missing if we continue to bring them in as we have for a few days. The Iowa 9<sup>th</sup> was cut up the worst of any regiment I have seen. The 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois had but four men killed in action, although they were in the hottest of the fight. Yesterday and the day before was spent in burying the dead. Each regiment buried its own. It was a solemn task to lower these lifeless, mangled and uncoffined forms into the cold earth, without a parent or relative to smooth the thick matted locks or offer a prayer to "Him who giveth and taketh away." Yet there was one thought to console, and it was that they could not have been engaged in a more noble cause or died a more glorious death. Every child of freedom will love to honor the names of those who are buried upon the hills of Arkansas, and whose blood was spilled that our Government might still exist.

"We've piled the grave-mound broad and high,  
Where our martyred brethren sleep'  
It shall point the pilgrim's eye  
Here to bend and here to weep."

Those too who were once our brothers in heart and hand, lie upon the same hills, and the same earth covers them, and the same God has called them home. Poor, misguided creatures – ignorant of the great principles which should still bind us together as citizens of one great nation, and brothers in one common family – their minds have been poisoned, and the love which once existed has turned to hate. Although they may have fought as bravely, and sacrificed their lives as freely as any upon our side – still they can only be remembered as the once proud Arnold is – for the black escutcheons of infamy hangs in gloomy folds over their

dishonored graves.

F. O. W.

AB, 3-20-1862

Rose Hill Battlefield, Ark., March 16.

Dear Beacon; -- Once more I find myself seated for the purpose of tattling for you and your readers. You have doubtless heard that there has been a fight in Arkansas, between the Federal and Confederate forces. I will endeavor to give you the particulars of the main features of the battle.

You are aware that we had been camped in Benton County, Arkansas for more than two weeks. The different Divisions were camped in different camps. Our (Sigel's) division was camped about three miles north west of Bentonville, near the line of the Indian Territory. Davis' Indiana division was at Sugar Creek, some ten or twelve miles east of us -- while Carr's division was about eight miles south east of us at Cross Hollows. Price was at Boston Mountains, about thirty miles south west of us, where he had been reinforced by Van Dorn, of Texas, McCulloch and McIntosh of Arkansas, and Albert Pike and Col. Beaves, each with two or three regiments of Indians. The combined Confederate forces from all evidence I can gather, from wounded prisoners and residents, accounted to between thirty and forty thousand. I had heard it intimated for several days that their combined force under the command of General Van Dorn, of Texas, were coming back to give us battle. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of March Carr's division moved from Cross Hollows back to Sugar Creek, and joined Curtis' Iowa and Davis' Indiana Divisions. At about ten o'clock on the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> we received orders to be ready to march at eight o'clock on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup>. When the time arrived we were all packed and ready to march -- but it snowed and stormed, and it was so dark that we could not possibly see to move until daylight. As soon as it was light enough to move, we started via Bentonville for Sugar Creek to join the other divisions. We arrived at Bentonville about breakfast time. All was quiet and fine as a fiddle. The clouds had disappeared and the sun shone brightly and beautifully. General Sigel, the *best fighter on the American continent*, had always rode in advance. When he arrived at Bentonville, he selected his celebrated flying artillery, his old regiment, the 2d Missouri volunteers, the 12<sup>th</sup> Missouri regiment, and companies A and B cavalry, of the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois, and remained at Bentonville in the extreme rear of all our forces. Our main columns had passed the town but a

few moments, when the Confederate cavalry, some six or eight thousand strong, rushed in from the woods and surrounded the town and Sigel with his handful of men. Bentonville is situated in the edge of the timber. South of the town there is a prairie about a mile in length. The rebels completely blockaded this prairie. Capt. Jenks and the other boys tell me that Gen. Sigel was as cool as a cucumber, apparently entirely unconcerned. First he gave his orders in German to his German Missouri regiments; then he spoke to Capt. Jenks and said; "Captain, they are on that side of us, and that side of us, and ahead of us; they have surrounded us,. We must cut our way through them! *We can and will cut our way through them!*" This he said with great emphasis, and then mounted his beautiful black horse and started for the conflict. Quick as lightening he placed his artillery and sent a raking shell down the road among them. The shell exploded just where he intended it should, and cleared the road with telegraphic speed. By the time the smoke of the first shot had cleared away, and the rebels looked around to see who was down, Sigel's guns were moved forward and a second shell informed them that the *Flying Dutchman* was still alive, and among them. The second shell also exploded in the right place and made sad work among the secesh cavalry. One of their prisoners told us that the second shell thrown killed sixteen of their men, and several horses. It also opened the road again for Sigel and his brave followers. They improved the opportunity and moved forward toward Sugar Creek. Col. Gates' rebel Missouri cavalry and Texas Rangers, were not yet satisfied nor fully acquainted with their daring little opponent, but a third time tried to cut off his retreat. Cool and collected as ever, Sigel again places his "*Pets,*" and cannonaded the secesh to clear the track. They again obeyed promptly. Sigel now sent all his men ahead, and took the extreme rear in person, with his artillery. The rebels continued to send up reinforcements and attempted to push ahead. Every time they came in reach, they found the same little daring, vigilant Sigel at his post, ready to receive them. Thus Sigel retreated full eight miles, protecting his little band of braves, and at the same time keeping the rebel forces at a safe distance. I do not believe there is another so daring and brilliant a retreat on record in the annals of war. Sigel immediately dispatched a messenger ahead to inform Generals Osterhaus and Greusel of the condition of things. As soon as the messenger overhauled General Greusel, whose brigade was in the rear he about faced everything, and started for the scene of action on a big double quick. I really wish you could have seen the "Old Man" of the 36<sup>th</sup>, as he rode old Tom up and down the lines giving his various orders. He was quite as cool and decided as you ever saw him pass through Aurora aboard of his old construction train. The boys of the 36<sup>th</sup> cheered him roundly and followed him closely. I never saw the boys look so well before. They looked six inches taller than usual, and each man seemed bound to get the first shot at the enemy. We had only marched back about two miles, when we met Sigel and his victorious

party coming along slowly, and in perfect order. He seemed determined not to be hurried in his passage along the public highways. Occasionally secesh would come too near to please him, when he would immediately about his artillery and send them his card, and thereby notify them to keep at a safe distance. Every time his artillerists saw the men and horses tumble, they would throw up their hats and make the welkin ring with cheers. Those artillerists love their occupation, and enjoy a good shot as well as any set of men I ever saw in my life.

As soon as secesh found that Sigel had been reinforced and formed in line of battle, they had no further business on the road, but immediately took to the bush. As soon as Gen. Sigel found the rebels had quit the chase, he formed his men and marched them on to camp, in perfect order. When we arrived in camp at Sugar Creek, we found all hands busy fortifying. The road from Sugar Creek to Bentonville passes through a deep and narrow ravine, which is heavily timbered on both sides. At Sugar Creek the road leaves the ravine, and passes over the high mountain – right where the road passes from the mountain into the ravine it also crosses the small stream called Sugar Creek. Each side of the creek there is quite a strip of level land, which is mostly cleared and some of it cultivated. At the creeks crossing there was a small store and several other wooded buildings. These were all burned immediately, and all of the scattering trees on the flats cut down, so as to give the cannon perfect command of the entire valley. This accomplished, our men took position on the top of the ridge of the mountain, leisurely waiting for Price and his army to make their appearance in the valley below, where we were to rake them, fore and aft. This, you understand was Curtis' plan. He apparently went upon the supposition that Price and his officers were idiots, and that all we needed to do was set our snares, and they would kindly blunder in. In this, Curtis was sadly deceived. Price soon smelled a mice, and while Curtis was throwing up his fortifications, he took another road with his main army and passed entirely north of us, and came into the road ahead of us, evidently intending to come in upon our train, in the morning, and driving them in upon us and thus cause a panic and surprise, and then just bag us at their leisure. Their plans were well laid, but they failed of execution. Our officers *accidentally and providentially* discovered the situation of things early in the morning, and in time to make all the necessary arrangements. The rebels, you understand had got between us and Springfield, whence all our supplies had to come from. This, you see was likely to play the deuce with our culinary department. I assume the whelps anticipated the fact that our leaders were entirely barren, and that we were moving towards our grub. Whether they anticipated it or not, thus was the fact. Perhaps you and your well fed readers can imagine the feelings of sixteen thousand hungry, tired men, ninety miles from dinner, with forty thousand well armed men between them and it, determined to keep them from it. If you can, you can just imagine our actual

condition. Taking all things in to consideration it took but mighty little ciphering to convince us that the only salvation left us was to go to work and whip them as early as possible. The resolution was adopted by all the boys with a will. The plans of operation were soon determined upon. The road, where it crosses Sugar Creek and comes up into the mountain towards Springfield, diverges. It was ascertained that the rebels were occupying both roads in large numbers. Curtis, with the Iowa boys, and Carr, with his division, moved ahead on the main, or south Telegraph road, while Sigel and Osterhaus, with their divisions took the north road and moved upon that. The first gun was fired by our men on the south road, at twenty minutes to eleven o'clock. Our division reached and commenced firing upon McCulloch's and McIntosh's men a few minutes past twelve. The fight on our road was first commenced by the cavalry. The cavalry force consisted of the 1<sup>st</sup> Mo., Col. Ellis, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Iowa, Col. Bavzzy, the Benton Hussars, all under command of Gen. Asboth. The cavalry were some mile and a half in advance of the infantry and artillery. The rebels were secreted in the bush until the cavalry came in upon them, when they fired upon our boys, killing quite a good many, and driving the others back at a furious rate of speed. The infernal rebel Indians, some four thousand strong, were also hid in the ambush and fired upon our boys with deadly aim. Blast their cowardly red skins, -- they ought to be annihilated. The rebels were dismounted, a few men holding all their horses while the others took rests and deliberate aim from the bush; as soon as they fired and our cavalry retreated, many of the rebel horses broke loose and followed ours back to the infantry. The infantry and artillery had just emerged from the timber into the corn field of some eighty to one hundred acres, as the hatless riders and riderless horses came flying from the timber in to the same field on the opposite side. Some of the men were screaming, horses were whimpering, and man and horse were thoroughly covered with blood. It was one of the most wild and exciting scenes that I have ever beheld. I tell you it was well calculated to cause another Ball running stampede. Did it? Not a bit of it. The "Old Man" of the 36<sup>th</sup>, with every officer of his Brigade, had their men in line of battle in a twinkling. There they stood, stretched clear across the corn field, in the open field, determined to die if necessary, but back never an inch. A braver and nobler set of boys never stood on any battlefield. Gen's. Sigel and Osterhaus soon had their caisson at work shelling the timber in every direction. The rebels also opened fire with their artillery, and making some very good shots. The first shell they threw killed one of Company C's men, and took another's arm off. The firing was incessant, and terrible, from twelve o'clock until about half past five, when the rebels began to fall back and leave on double quick. They "CaSigled." We had a large number killed, and a still larger number wounded. The firing on the south road was still going on as briskly as ever and our men there were falling back. Sigel immediately started his division

on the double quick to their assistance. They had to pass round quite a distance to reach them, and by the time they reached them it had become dark and all firing had ceased for the day. The boys lay right down without a mouthful of supper, with old mother earth for a bed, and the blue canopy of heaven for a covering, with instructions not to speak to each other any louder than a whisper. Their knapsacks and blankets had been all thrown away during the day. Thus the poor, brave and tired boys spent a night, each man grasping his trusty musket, well loaded and capped, for any emergency. Everything remained quiet during the night. At three o'clock, Sigel's division moved back to give the boys a scanty breakfast. This was Saturday; and a more beautiful morning could not be imagined. Just about sunrise, the Dubuque light artillery opened the fight by sending the rebels a few friendly shots. The rebels replied promptly and energetically, and the firing soon became general again. Curtis' Iowa, Davis' Indiana and Carr's 3<sup>rd</sup> Ill. Cavalry divisions were now doing the fighting; Sigel's men were not yet ordered up. The firing from both sides was continuous and terrific. Thus the fight continued hand to hand until about nine o'clock, when our men began to fall back. Now Sigel's division was ordered up and attacked the center of the rebel column. Now all heads were engaged, and the firing and fighting far exceeded anything that I have ever dreamed of. I can not describe it to you. Just imagine one of the severest thunder and lightening storms you ever experienced; then turn all the boys loose on the fourth of July, with pistols and plenty of fire crackers, and barrels to fire them in; then set a half dozen Chicago's on fire to raise a smoke; multiply all this by ten, and you can form something of an idea of the confusion and noise of the battlefield, only you are still minus the dead men, the wounded men, the dead horses and a large portion of the smell of gun powder. A few moments of Sigel's artillering, and Gen. Greusel's musketeering sufficed to stop the rebel centers. They waiver – Greusel orders the 36<sup>th</sup> to charge bayonet, the boys do it with a will; the enemy flies; the route is complete; the victory is ours; thank God, there is a brighter prospect for the American Union, and a speedy termination of this unholy war. Price and his hoard of butternut colored followers, fled promiscuously, in every direction; most of them towards Keatsville. Sigel followed them hotly with his artillery, and Greusel's Brigade of infantry, dealing out death to them with a lavish hand. He followed them to Keatsville, twelve miles, then darkness hid them from view. At Keatsville Sigel met our large provision train and brought it back to camp with him. I cannot give you the number of either killed or wounded. I have not seen the official report. The number is large, the dead are all decently buried. Poor, brave boys, they died for their country; God Bless them. The wounded are nearly all removed to Cassville, where, under the care of their vigilant and faithful surgeons, they are mending rapidly. The number of prisoners and other spoils taken, are variously estimated. I should think that a fair estimate would show that

we had taken about two thousand copper-buttoned prisoners, twenty acres of double barreled shot guns and old rifles, (secesh threw away his guns to aid his locomotion, for he was being CaSigeld), four acres of old wool hats and caps, (secesh dropped his hat, and hadn't time to pick it up -- he was still being CaSigled). Bully for Sigel – he is the best fighting man on the American continent. May he be spared until this infernal rebellion is wiped out, is the earnest prayer of  
Tattle Tale

**The Regiment is attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division, Army of Southwest Missouri until June 1862**

It was after Pea Ridge that the Fox River boys were transferred from Osterhaus' division to that of Asboth, at the request of Greusel, "to escape being the only non-immigrant German regiment."

*WS, 3-26-1862*

**FROM THE WOODSTOCK RIFLES  
INTERESTING LETTER FROM CHAS. G. THOMAS TO HIS FATHER**

By the kindness of Ex-Sheriff Thomas, we are enabled to lay before our readers the following interesting letter from his son, a member of the "Woodstock Rifles," Co. H, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Regiment.

Camp on Sugar Creek, Ark.  
March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1862.

DEAR FATHER: -- On the fourth I received two letters from you. I had got about half way through reading them when the cannon commenced roaring. I had to put them up and fall in double quick. The day before, it had rained, and most of the boys had their guns apart. It did not take us more than fifteen minutes to put them together and march to the top of the high hill in the direction of the baggage train. When the action commenced, our regiment was about five miles from Bentonville. Early in the morning our ammunition wagon broke down, and Co. B was detailed to guard it. They were attacked by about 500 secesh cavalry and ordered to surrender, which they were obliged to do. Quite a number, however, got away

soon after, and the balance, as I am told by secesh prisoners, were marched to Fort Smith.

The second day our regiment was drawn up, or rather I should say our Brigade, in the open field, and advanced a short distance towards the woods on the opposite side, when we were ordered to halt, and then to retreat and form on the edge of the field, which was done in good order. Then the shells from our big guns went whizzing and screaming through the air like so many infernals lighting in the edge of woods on the opposite side, and as we soon discovered, right in among a large army of secesh and Indians that lay in ambush. If they had fired on us where we were first halted, they would have cut us to pieces, but they were waiting for a better chance, which was not given to them. The first shot fired by the enemy was aimed at the flag, which stood at the head of our company, and killed one man in Co. C. They fired some mighty close shots. After our guns had shelled them properly, we pitched in and cleaned them out handsomely, with comparatively small loss. Gen. Curtis however, was being driven back all day, as you will see by the papers. His policy was to rush his men right forward without sufficient knowledge of the position of the enemy, and they were badly cut to pieces. Gen. Sigel, on the contrary, would manage to save his men, and kill more powder. His policy was to use his largest shell guns until he understood what he must do, and how to do it in order to beat them, and when his order went along the lines to charge, it was done with a hurrah, and the secesh and Indians were obliged to leave on a double quick, every time and in every instance.

It is impossible to give you a description of the battle in one short letter. It is enough that we have met twice our number, in a rough, rugged and mountainous country, where they had led us the more easily to bag or kill us, and after two days and a half hard fighting have whipped them for which we may thank Heaven, and Gen. Sigel. Orrin Pickett, who was wounded in the lower part of body, died yesterday. C. M. Kimplen wounded in the neck is doing well; slightly wounded, J. Connar, C. E. Orlise, A. Bunker, the latter very slightly. A pair of new gloves in his overcoat pocket stopped or turned the ball so that it only grazed the skin. He is with us now.

Write often and send more stamps.

Your Son,  
C. G. Thomas.

*EG, 3-26-1862*

FROM THE THIRTY SIXTH

Rose Hill, Benton Co., Ark.  
Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1862

Dear Captain: -- Your letter of February 19<sup>th</sup> I received yesterday, and it was my intention to answer the same day, as the mail was to go out this morning; but just as I had got out my desk and was preparing to "go in" to the foolscap, an alarm was sounded and the "long roll" beat, the signal guns were fired to call in the stragglers, and the devil was to pay generally, for a few minutes. It proved to be a false alarm, but we had packed up everything, and after that I couldn't write.

Will Smith's letter will probably reach you long before this one does, and will let you know that Co. A is all right, but he wanted me to write and give you particulars, which he said he had not time to do.

Well, after we gave up the chase after Price, on Sugar Creek, the 17<sup>th</sup> of Feb. Davis' Division joined ours, and we marched twelve miles further, to Osage Springs, four miles south east of Bentonville. Our division and Gen. Asboth's stayed here several days, but Davis' division moved on to Cross Hollows, five or six miles from us. The 2d of March our division marched again, this time camping on McKissock's farm, four miles west of Bentonville. The night of the fifth we received orders from Sigel to be in readiness to leave at 2 o'clock, A.M. We had reveille at 12, and from that time till four A.M., we stood shivering around our camp fires, wondering why in the world we didn't go, and where we were going to. I, of course, moved with the train, which went ahead, but I stopped some time in Bentonville, looking over documents in the secesh Court House, and while there, I noticed a large body of cavalry on the prairie south of town, but supposed, of course they were our own men. You see, we boys had not the slightest idea that there was a force of any importance within fifty miles of us. Well, we didn't go out more than 3 miles further, before firing commenced in the rear, and pretty soon messengers came back for Colonel Greusel, who said that our rear guard was attacked, and that our Company B. was all cut to pieces. The 36<sup>th</sup>, which was close behind the train, was turned back, and presently the 17<sup>th</sup> Missouri, which was our advance guard, came back also, on double quick. The firing was kept up pretty much all day, and I didn't get reliable information until we went into camp that night which we did on the bluffs overlooking Sugar Creek. It appears that Hank Gale, who has been driving the ammunition wagon belonging to our Reg't., in driving out from camp in the dark, ran against a tree and broke his wagon tongue, and 40 men of company B, 36<sup>th</sup> were left, under Lieut. Walker, to guard him while he was getting his wagon repaired. Bent Rowland and Baker, of Co. A, were also left with him, and Joy, the Reg't'l Blacksmith. Just after they started out, a regiment of cavalry surrounded them, and the Col. ordered them to halt. They did so, and he told them if they would lay down their arms they shouldn't be hurt; so

they surrendered. Just then the 12<sup>th</sup> Mo., having got wind of what was going on, came up and opened fire on the secesh. The rebel Col. ordered our boys to lie down so that they wouldn't get shot accidentally, by his men, which part of them did, and part took to the brush and escaped – among them Hank Gale and Baker. Bent E. got into the wagon, and in looking out to see what was going on, his guard hit him with a bayonet scabbard, in the face. Pretty soon the rebels began to retreat, and the Col. ordered our boys to fall in and go with them. Bent told him he was sick and wouldn't walk, and the Col. then told him he could join his regiment, as he didn't want any such men. Hank's jack mule was shot, so they couldn't get the wagon away.

Early on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup>, the troops left camp, at about 10:30 a.m. the first gun was fired. From that time till 8 p.m. both parties kept up a terrific cannonading. The battle ground is from four to five miles in length, and about five or six miles in breadth, with a space between our two divisions of about three miles, where there was very little fighting. From prisoners brought in early in the day, we ascertained that their force was about 45,000, under Generals Price, McIntosh, Pike and Van Dorn. Gen. Pike's force consisted of from four to six thousand Cherokee and Choctaw Indians.

Gen. Sigel directed the movements against McCulloch, who commanded the enemy's right wing, and Curtis and Davis fought Price.

The prisoners said that it was Prices intention to occupy Bentonville and cut us off from Curtis; but being foiled in that by our moving so early, he had come the "Pea Ridge" road, got between us and Cassville, so that our retreat was completely cut off, and intended to outflank us and drive us into Sugar Creek valley, when we should have been at his mercy. On the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> the firing commenced about 9 a.m. and for two or three hours it was one continual war. Scarcely a second passed without the report of a canon. The musketry played pretty freely also. Our boys slept the night before in a corn field, without blankets and without fires, and got nothing to eat from breakfast one day till the same time the next day. However, they were "in for it," and didn't mind it much. About 10 o'clock on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Davis' Brigade having stood the firing till they could stand it no longer, began to fall back, though in good order. Gen. Sigel sent word to Curtis "for God's sake to hold on." A battery which was playing in upon us with great accuracy, Sigel said must be taken and the 36<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> Mo. made a charge, capturing two pieces. It called all Sigel's power into play, but by his skillful management of the batteries, the enemy was forced to fall back, and the day was won. To him and to his division belongs the honor of the victory. About 12 o'clock the enemy commenced retreating. In haste, our boys after them on double quick. We followed them to Keetsville, Mo. and then turned back and are now camped on the Rose Hill battlefield. All along the route from the field to Keetsville, some 10 or

12 miles, the road was strewn with broken muskets, shot guns, wagons, artillery carriages, caissons, &c. But the sight on the battlefield was the most dreadful one I ever beheld. You have read enough descriptions of them to render it unnecessary for me to write on the subject. Suffice it to say that my ideas of a battlefield were fully realized. And so ended one of the most severely contested battles of the continent. I can only estimate the loss, but as near as I can get at it, that of the enemy, in killed and wounded, and prisoners, will be nearly four thousand, though the figures may be somewhat large. We took a great many more prisoners than they did. The loss of the 36<sup>th</sup> in killed, wounded and prisoners will be about 80. Of these some 8 or 10 are dead or will die, about 30 wounded, and the rest prisoners. Considering that the 36<sup>th</sup> was in the thickest of the fight, they have been remarkably fortunate. The boys practiced lying flat on the ground, and letting the artillery play over them, which probably saved them 100 men. Co. A has but one man injured – Charley Cox, of Crystal Lake, and his is a flesh wound in the leg from a grape shot, which is not dangerous. Co. B has 9 wounded and 26 prisoners, among the latter are Lieut. Walker and Sergt. Douglas, and six corporals. Co. G has 13 wounded, Co. E, 2 killed, &c. Co. H has, I think, four wounded. The Indiana 18<sup>th</sup>, in one charge lost 150 men. The Iowa 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> have also suffered severely.

All the boys speak in the highest terms of their officers, and the officers declare that their men behaved like veterans. Ed. was as cool as he would be at a fourth of July celebration – ditto Maj. Barry. Our boys say that George and Bill were just as collected as if on dress parade. Some of the officers had pretty close calls. Ed's saber bears the mark of a ball. Col. Greusel "dodged" just in time to prevent a cannonball taking off his head, the same ball killing a Co. E boy. Capt. Joslyn's wrist is blistered where a musket ball grazed it. Capt. Fish was thrown to the ground by the force of a 12 pound ball. Lieut. Holden has three or four scratches on his hands where balls grazed him.

Charley Rapp had a narrow escape – a musket ball struck the cylinder of his revolver, which would otherwise have gone through him. None of the boys are sick, and since we have cleaned out Price, they all feel splendidly. The great trouble is to get enough to eat, and then, too a great many of the boys are just about barefooted, and none of them have a change of clothes. But these are small matters – except the eating – in comparison with the whipping out of Price, and the good news we have from Tennessee, Kentucky and N. C. While I write, the news comes in that Hunter and Montgomery yesterday engaged a part of Price's retreating force in the Indian Territory, and whipped them out. Cannonading was certainly heard in that direction yesterday, and this morning part of Curtis' force marched in the direction of the Indian Nations. We are under orders to leave in the morning. We are not in very good condition to move forward, on account of lack of supplies,

both of provisions and clothing. If we can only follow up our victories, seems to me the war must soon end.

Fred Raymond is acting Adjutant, and Les Ticknor is acting Sergt. Major.

Very Truly, your friend.

A. Keyes

*EG, 4-2-1862*

### FROM THE THIRTY SIXTH

FRIDAY, the great day, -- Arose rather late, thinking we were going to lay over, as the reveille did not rout us very early, but after eating a breakfast of coffee, meat, a biscuit and a half, there was a detail of two men to clear off the brush. In a short time we were ordered to fall in, and ours and another regiment were stationed on the brow of a hill, supporting a battery, ready for the enemy, which they said was expected, but we could not believe it. Laid there an hour or two, then started, as we supposed, for Springfield; had gone two or three miles, and was halted, and waited for a thousand or two of cavalry to get back by us. We were then ordered to march back, and did so, but soon the firing commenced up the road ahead of us a mile or two; they fired rapidly too, I tell you. Well, we marched over to the west of the firing in pretty quick time. All at once we came out in an open field of about 80 rods square. We were drawn up in line of battle. The 12<sup>th</sup> Mo. Regiment was with us and a battery of artillery. It being a very common thing for us to be drawn up, we thought nothing of it, but all at once we saw the cavalry and artillery, a couple of thousand, coming out of the brush in the opposite corner of the field, just as fast as they could run, some of them riderless, and some with saddles turned, and everyone striving to get past the other. The 12<sup>th</sup> Mo. stood at our right, about 30 rods in advance of us. The horses passed between us at lightening speed, and close after them were the secesh cavalry. There we stood, as immovable as a rock, and the cowardly devils, on coming up to the corner, instead of coming in, rode right along in the brush just outside of the fields. A few shots were fired at them, and they disappeared. It seems the cavalry had been out there scouting, and coming upon them fled and made a perfect stampede of it among them but not among us, for if we had broke and run, undoubtedly the day would have been lost; at least the officers say so; so the 36<sup>th</sup> will receive an honor for this. Our artillery got stationed and began to shell them. We fell back a few rods, and they, I should think, arranged themselves in line of battle, for we saw their flag, for the first time through the brush, and then they opened fire on us, the first one wounding one of our men. We then fell back into the brush, and their shot went over our heads.

Only laid a short time, when we arose, threw off our blankets, and advanced across the field at a charge bayonet; did not reach the brush before we halted, and the rebels fired from their position. We maneuvered round in the field a short time, when we saw a regiment of rebels in the brush, where we started from, but supposed it was our flag, it being in the brush. Our men were on two sides of them, so they broke for the woods. We moved cautiously about in the woods after them for a short time, and our Co. being ahead saw them sneaking off in the woods, but dare not shoot for it was contrary to orders. We let the Col. know it, but they were out of sight. A short time after, we saw a few more running in the woods, and then, regardless of orders, a few of us shot at them, I being one of them, but I guess we did not kill any, for the brush was --- -- ---- ---and rested. Our Co. and another was sent ahead to the brush, where we had been fighting the secesh, and waited for them to come along back, but they did not come. I, and a few others, went out in the brush while there, and saw a dead rebel, and I found an overcoat laying beside a tree, the pockets of which I naturally searched, and found a derringer pistol, and a letter from his sweetheart, which I will bring home if I come. It was nearly sundown then, and we rejoined the regiment and marched about 2 miles over east, across the battle ground; saw several dead and wounded, and any amount of guns, boxes, coats, hats, and everything else strung along the road. We marched to within a mile or so of where Curtis had been firing all day, and stopped in a corn field, it being then dark, got up beside the fence and laid down and tried to sleep, but it was too cold, and we had no blanket. About ten o'clock Lieut. Smith wanted I should go with 15 or 20 others, and find a certain road. We expected to run on to the secesh every minute, but as luck would have it, we did not, and returned unsuccessful. Laid down again and just got into a drowse, when they woke me and said we were to march. It was then about one o'clock, and we went about four miles and joined Curtis, and then lay down till daylight. At day break, Bent, and two or three others that were left with the wagons, came up with something to eat. We had had nothing since the morning before, so you may imagine how it tasted. About sunrise they began firing and throwing shell upon us but our batteries opened upon them in a different place, and changed their shooting to the great relief of all of us.

We and another regiment marched over to the east with some artillery -- --  
- ---- and opened fire on them. This was Saturday.

They seemed to concentrate all their forces against us, and so our artillery kept coming up until we had three batteries – 18 pieces. For an hour and a half the firing was terrible on both sides, but a part of their guns were silenced, and soon all of them, and they went back upon a high bluff, where we supposed they would plant their cannon, but every time they would come out on the edge where we could see them, the artillery would put a shell right amongst them, until they had

all left, then we ascended the bluff, where we found plenty of wounded rebels. They said one of our shells killed or wounded 60 of them. We took their arms from them and went out on to the main road, where we joined Sigel. While we were upon the bluff the other regiments could see us and such cheering I never heard; and when we saw Sigel, we all cheered and threw our hats up in the air, making the welkin ring louder than the cannon, if possible.

Price retreated right on, Sigel and we following him. The roads were almost paved with guns, traps, wagons, ammunition, dead horses and men that he had left in his haste to get away. We followed him five or six miles and encamped. Tonight we had a little minute pudding without anything on it, but we relished it, for we had had nothing to eat since morning, and this was at dark. Next day we marched to Keitsville, 4 miles, and back, without a mouthful to eat. We then stopped and cooked something in the rain, and marched on and encamped near the battle ground. This was Sunday, a week ago today. We laid there until Thursday, then came to this place, and are now encamped in a corn field close to a creek.

Leroy Salisbury.

EG, 4-2-1862

### THE 36<sup>th</sup>

The Colonel of the 36<sup>th</sup> evidently did all he could at the time of the great battle to cast the officers of the regiment, whom he disliked into the background, and push others into posts of distinction. The letter writers who hang around his Headquarters, have taken great pains to speak of his “pet lambs” and no others, but there are too many well educated boys in that regiment for this game to succeed long. The facts are coming out. Letters are pouring in upon us, giving all the details. One of Greusel’s pets, over whose cackling ever since the battle, was ordered to advance with his company, to gain a piece of woods, where they might pick off the enemy’s guards. As he did not advance, another company was ordered forward. When the Captain of the last company came up, he found the gallant Captain of the first company safe behind a stump, and he frankly confessed that for once he hesitated between duty and safety. Captain no. 2 led his men under a galling fire, to the desired position – *the other company did not follow.*

The day after the battle, the Lieutenant Colonel and Major tendered their resignations, very properly declaring they would not serve under their Colonel in another battle.

Their resignations were not accepted, and we hope by *a judicious system of*

*promotions*, these accomplished officers will be retained in the service.

### **At Keitsville, Missouri until April 5, 1862**

*EG, 4-9-1862*

#### **WOUNDED**

Dyer Clark, of Co. G, 36<sup>th</sup> Regt., writes to his father in Belvidere:

I suppose you have heard before that I was wounded, but not badly. I have one ball in the cords of my ankle, which I expect is there yet, another in my hip, which is out and in my port mannie; another passed through my coat sleeve and took the skin off my arm, but not enough to make it sore; another took my right boot heel off.

*AB, 4-10-1862*

#### **LETTERS FROM THE 36<sup>TH</sup> REGIMENT**

The following letter we take from The Elgin Gazette. It was written by Capt. Joslyn, of Company H, of the 36<sup>th</sup>. The Captain was in the hottest of the fight, and was slightly wounded in the wrist:

Pea Ridge, Benton Co., Arkansas  
March 16, 1862

At about 11 o'clock I was ordered to charge up a hill in our front covered with the enemy. I had to double-quick about one hundred rods under a galling fire of sharpshooters, through an open field, without firing a gun. When I arrived at a piece of timber flanking the hill, I got my men behind logs and trees, and opened a murderous fire with these savage shooting muskets of ours. The enemy soon began to give way when I had my men advance from tree to tree, and log to log and peppered them sweetly. The Mo. 12<sup>th</sup> came up on my right, and opened a murderous fire, while the artillery, (as my drummer said), give us much comfort by dropping shell thick and fast right in among the rascals, over our heads. The

balance of the 36<sup>th</sup> were ordered to charge the mountain on the other side, seeing which, the enemy broke and run in all directions. We pursued them 12 miles and returned next day, having had no sleep and scarcely anything to eat in four days. You can imagine we have been pretty much sick ever since, but are recovering now. I had five men hit and one killed, but none of our friends showed the white feather. Ed. and the Major tendered their resignations the next day after the battle. Gen. Curtis, refused to accept them, whereupon Ed. notified him, that he would never obey another order from Greusel in battle, and so the matter stands. I have not time now to write you the particulars. I have written to this letter most of what I did myself, because there is not room to write all, and I suppose others will write the balance. I can only say that we have had an awful fight. I rode over the battlefield alone the next day, and for miles around, the ground was literally covered with dead men and horses. For God's sake, Doc., don't think of coming here. A man must be made of iron, tipped with brass, to stand all this. While I am writing, the order has come for us to start for Fort Smith in the morning.

*AB, 4-10-1862*

The following in relation to the Plato Cavalry attached to the 36<sup>th</sup>, we also find in the Gazette. We are pleased to give it place in our columns, knowing it will be read with interest by the friends of the boys under Captain Smith.

The cavalry companies attached to the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, saw hard service at the battle of Pea Ridge. They were with Sigel when he was surrounded, and had to cut their way through. We have no detailed account of the matter as yet. We learn that some of company B, the Plato boys were taken prisoner, among them the son of John S. Lee. If any of our subscribers in Plato have the particulars, we hope they will send them to us for publication. Those noble farmer's sure have rendered a good account of themselves. Those who were so unfortunate to have been taken prisoner, will doubtless soon be released, as we have so many more prisoners than the rebels.

Since writing the above we have seen Lieut. Durand who has returned discharged on account of ill health and we learn the part taken by the Plato boys in the great battle.

On the first day of the battle, Lieut. Chapman with 20 men had gone to

Pineville and missed the fight. Captain Smith, with the balance of his company, were with Sigel when he was surrounded and cut their way through. Three of their number, Abijah Lee of Plato, Edward Balch of Naperville and Myron Emic of Plato were taken prisoner.

Chapman returned in the evening and prepared for a hard fight the second day. On this day Lieut. Chapman, was sent with a part of the company to support battery on Sugar Creek. The balance of the company under Smith and Duran, in skirmishing, cut off a portion of a Louisiana regiment and took 38 prisoners, six of which were commissioned officers. In all this they escaped without loss.

On the last day they were attached to the 36<sup>th</sup> in the support of Sigel's battery, and joined in the pursuit of the enemy, following them to Keatsville, some 14 miles, capturing horses, guns, etc. Every man stood fire like a hero.

*AB, 4-10-1862*

#### BOUNTY MONEY

The heirs of soldiers who have volunteered during the present war for three years, or during the war, and have died or been killed while in the service, are entitled to ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS Bounty Money, and such arrears of the soldiers pay as have accrued to the date of his death.

Address by mail or otherwise

BRAWNER & OTIS  
Aurora, Ill.

#### **March to Batesville, Arkansas, April 5 - May 3, 1862**

*AB, 4-17-1862*

The following is an extract from a letter written by Capt. Silas Miller, dated April 4<sup>th</sup>. It will be read with interest. The 36<sup>th</sup> has again been paid off, and over \$30,000 been sent to friends at home under the care of the paymaster.

“Our boys returned from Dixie on Sunday last, hearty, healthy and happy. From accounts brought by them, we learn the defeat of the enemy was much more overwhelming than we had supposed. The route was complete. Their flight was as rapid and tumultuous as consternation and dismay could make it. All broke for the

woods and over the hills, through the woods, avoiding one another and the roads. It seemed a foot race of 40,000 men to find who should first bless their eyes with the sight of Van Buren. The boys tell some curious stories.

While the prisoners were being hurried along as fast as they could be marched, a squad of fugitives rushed by them, when one of the boys sung out, "hallo stranger! Bull Run no. 2, ain't it?" "No by God sir, this is A No. 1 Bull Run!" responded one of the cavalry bound not to be excelled by the Yankees in anything. Walker tells with a delicious relish, the oath which the secesh claim was administered to them by Col. Boernstein, while at Jefferson City. His oath of allegiance was very impressive and comprehensive as you see; "you too solemnly schwear that you will subbort der gonstitution of der United States, and der Chicago blatform, so help you Got, if der be a Got, Got tam you I" The *penal clause* seems about as good as unconditional. The Indian force was much larger than we had any idea of before they returned. Pike had about 5,000, McCulloch 2,000 and McIntosh 2,000. The secesh curse them lustily. They say when a shot from a cannon hit a tree, an old fellow ran up, and standing at a safe distance, peeling his eyes to the size of a saucer, jumped up, striking his heels together, yelled; "Ugh! Shootin wagon, shoot twice, shoot start, shoot stop, Ugh!" and the old devil skedaddled for his pony, followed by the balance of the tribe, and were next seen in camp at Elm Springs; a good safe distance from the fight. They killed every man they saw who wore a blue coat, thereby sending to his reward many as good secesh as they were themselves. When they came across an artillery horse which had been killed they began to cut the harness to pieces to get the buckles for ornaments. Ross, of the Cherokees wrote to an old man, full blood chief of the Creeks, asking his advice about going to war against the Government, saying he was for peace. The old man responded that he also was for peace, but that he was going *hunting for a horse with a tortoise shell in his ear*; meaning, I suppose, that peace would be hard for the red man to find. They were all painted black which led some who saw them to suppose they were negroes.

There are a thousand curious things I might tell you which we saw and heard. Where Price and his force is, I have not even heard anyone guess. He has gone down the river from Van Buren, certain; but whether to stop at Little Rock, or go on to Pocahontas, or Memphis, or to reinforce Beauregard, I do not pretend to guess, as I have no means of knowing. What our next move may be is a mystery. We are afraid of the terrible silence in relation to island No. 10, and Corinth, from the Potomac and Burnside. Have we met with great disaster anywhere? I would give any consideration for a weekly paper, to be put into an envelope and sent through by mail. It would come if done up as a letter, but papers are not brought through by mail at all.

P.S. – By the accounts given Walker of the time, place, and manner of

McCulloch's death, by rebel officers, there is no longer any doubt but Company B did the job. Gen. Davis, who has heretofore claimed the credit for his division, now acknowledges that it was as we claim."

*EG, 4-23-1862*

Headquarters, 36<sup>th</sup> Reg't Ill. Vol.  
Camp Hoffman, Barry Co., Mo.  
March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1862.

Dear Friends: -- Last night this was a gay, good feeling camp. After a march of fifteen miles over mountains and through mud, we went into camp just over the State line, in Missouri, and enjoyed a square supper. We had just gathered around a jolly camp fire, when the cry came around, "the mail has come." Every boy was on his feet, and one grand rush was made for headquarters. It would have pleased you to have seen the good natured pushing, crowding and joking that then took place. Almost everyone got a share of the mail, and soon everyone was interested in his own particular business. After the letters were all gone over and out of sight, came the exchanging of news, and inquiring after friends. Everyone in the best of humor, forgetting all the past fatigues, and willing to endure more. I believe if the friends at home but know the pleasure their letters give to those far from home and friends, they would be more particular and prompt in their attention.

In the battle, we fought Mo., Ark., La., and Texas troops, besides three regiments of Cherokee Indians. They are all represented in our prisoners. They fought with every kind of weapon ever invented, from the Minnie musket and sharps rifle, to the poorest shot gun, or "old flint lock." The regular Confederate (or as the boys call them, Corn Feed) troops, are uniformed with a dirty, white, home made, cloth sack coat, black hat and dirty shirt. But few of the State troops had uniforms. Were mostly "Copper Bottoms," a mighty rough set of men to look at, but they like to keep out of the way of the Ill. boys in a fight.

I had quite a narrow chance, but did not know it at the time. At the close of the second day, Gen. Curtis thought we would have to give in, and retreat. The

enemy were on three sides of us, and we had only one road to retreat on, should we on the morrow be obliged to, and that road he did not know where we could strike. General Sigel thought we were not far from it, but no one knew just where it was to be found. He sent a Lieut. and twenty men from the 12<sup>th</sup> Mo., in one direction, and Gen. Osterhaus ordered me to pick twenty men and scout in another direction, and towards the enemy's camp fires. It was very dark, and for me, quite an undertaking. I went about a mile towards the enemy, as far as my orders would let me, came back half a mile, and struck off into the timber, and went about a half a mile over rocks, and through thick brush. All quiet, no road. Came back to camp and reported to Gen. Sigel. He complimented me on my grit, talked with me about the position of the enemy, as I saw them from where I went, and while there the other party came in – they had found the road all right. Some prisoners we took the next day said that three regiments of McCulloch's rangers lay within sixty rods of us, just back in the thick timber, and from the position the next morning I found that I had went between two large bodies of the enemy, for a quarter of a mile, and they were not over one fourth of a mile apart. They thought me a picket of their own men, and let me alone. They all lay in silence and without a fire, and had I went anywhere but where I did, I would have been gone up, sure.

Yours, &c., W. Smith.

*EG, 4-23-1862*

#### COL. E. S. JOSLYN

Col. Joslyn arrived home last week on a furlough of twenty days. He is much reduced in flesh, and appears pretty well used up. At the close of the battle of Pea Ridge, as the enemy were flying, he mounted a horse which a rebel officer had left, as his own had been under saddle for three days. This horse fell with him and rolled onto his chest injuring him severely. This aggravated his dyspeptic difficulty, which has troubled him for years, and rendered it necessary to lie by a while to recruit.

The Col. insists upon returning at the end of twenty days, but it will be weeks before he is able to enter the service again. He left the regiment at Forsyth, some forty miles from Springfield. They have probably removed east before this time, and may now be about south of Rolla, preparing to make a descent upon Little Rock, the Capital of Arkansas, with a view to establish a provisional government, after the example of Tennessee. The regiment was in excellent health and spirits, and ready for any service.

Major Barry, who was sick after the battle, has become strong, is putting on

flesh, and promises to stand camp life admirably.

Capt. M. L. Joslyn, who is just recovering from an attack of the mountain fever, accompanied the Col. as far as Chicago, and went on to Woodstock.

*WS, 4-23-1862*

#### FROM THE "WOODSTOCK RIFLES"

Capt. M. L. Joslyn, of the "Woodstock Rifles," Co. H, 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois regiment, arrived in town on Wednesday last, to recruit his health, which has sadly suffered during the past winter. He looks considerably the "worse for wear," as the saying goes. Capt. Joslyn reports that he left the company in a good state of health however, himself and Mr. Hayden, our correspondent, who is seriously ill of fever, being about the only men on the sick list.

There are many interesting details that the Captain has stated of his men, and the battle of Pea Ridge, which we regret we have not room to publish. Suffice to say, that not one of his command showed the white feather, and one of them who was stationed the first day to guard the baggage wagons, came back the second day, and begged to be allowed to take his place in the ranks. It appears that during the commencement of the battle of Pea Ridge, a regiment of cavalry were broken up by the enemy's fire, and retreated in disorder, leaving the guns they were to guard in the possession of the enemy, and broke right through the 36<sup>th</sup>, horses and horsemen, both running for dear life. As the Judge says, "according to the approved rules of war, the 36<sup>th</sup> ought to have broke and run too, after this rebuff, but the 36<sup>th</sup> didn't know that, so they stood their ground, opened ranks and let the cavalry through, and then charged on the rebels, and routed them." These volunteers are the best fighting men after all. It is related that after the battle of Buena Vista, old Santa Anna said he "never saw such fools; I had them whipped, but the fools didn't know enough to run." And the result was, these badly whipped American volunteers, (as at Pittsburg the other day), turned round and drove the enemy from the field.

John Bunker received \$495 last Thursday from the "Rifles," which the boys had sent home to their relations.

*AB, 4-24-1862*

HOME ON A FURLOUGH. – We learn that Lieut. Col. E. S. Joslyn of the 36<sup>th</sup>, arrived at his home in Elgin, on Friday last, upon a short furlough to regain his health. Judge Joslyn, brother of the Colonel, and Captain of the Woodstock Company of the 36<sup>th</sup>, is also sick, and came home at the same time. They will return to their regiments in a few days. Three of the Joslyn boys belong to the Grand Army of the Union. Colonel and Captain Joslyn each bore an important part in the late battle at Pea Ridge, and came out of the terrible conflict with the increased confidence of their fellow officers and men.

*EG, 4-30-1862*

#### GREUSEL'S REPORT

The report of Col. Greusel, who acted as a Brigadier at the battle of Pea Ridge, we find in the Beacon of last week. The only part containing anything not heretofore published, we give below.

“I avail myself of this opportunity, to tender to the officers and men of the entire command, my heartfelt thanks for their promptness in obedience, and for their valor in battle, and especially for the daring and courageous stand which they made on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> inst., preventing a general stampede which threatened to succeed the retreat of the cavalry. When every man did his duty it may be unjust to particularize, but I would respectfully mention the unflinching bravery and collected courage of Major Hugh Waugelin, of the Mo. 12<sup>th</sup>, and the untiring energy and valor of my acting Assistant Adjutant General Geo. A. Willis, and of my Aid de camp, Lieut. Rob't M. Denning, who executed my orders with great promptness, in the midst of storms of shot and shell.

I would also respectfully mention the intrepid and determined boldness with which Capt. Silas Miller, of Company B, and Capt. Irving W. Parkhurst, of Company G, both of the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois, led their commands under my orders, against an overwhelming force of the enemy, and brought them off with but little loss; and

of the brilliant charge made by companies H and K, under the commands of Captain Merritt L. Joslyn and J. Q. Adams, which drove a large force of the enemy like chaff before the wind.

Respectfully,  
N. Greusel.  
Col. commanding 2d Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Div.

*EG, 5-7-1862*

### THE 36<sup>th</sup>

The following letters kindly furnished us by Sherwood Raymond, show the location and condition of the 36<sup>th</sup>. Lieut Chapman of the Plato Cavalry has just returned and reports the boys all well. Col. Greusel on resuming command assured the boys that they should be home to celebrate the fourth of July. The impression is becoming general, that the war is about over and rebellion a dying affair. If this should prove true, *what a fourth of July we will have though!*

Adams Mills, Tahey Co., Mo.  
April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1862

Dear Sher: -- You see that we have moved again. Our regiment came up here from Forsyth, 5 miles, this morning, to take charge of the mill which is here, on Beaver Creek. No other troops are here besides our regiment. The "Army of the Southwest" is considerably scattered just now. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, Gen. Asboth, struck their tents the same time we did this morning, and marched off in the opposite direction, toward Springfield. A good share of Col. Carr's 4<sup>th</sup> Division, is back on Bull Creek, 9 miles from Forsyth. The first Division, with the exception of our regiment is, I suppose, still at the old camp. I do not think this part of the army will have any more severe fighting to do, though undoubtedly our presence here serves to keep the country quiet. The last reports from Sterling Price's army, say that they are crossing the Arkansas River below Little Rock, and pushing on southward. Lack of supplies will probably keep us from advancing any further at present.

There's no news in camp just now, at least none that would interest you folks at home. Col. Hassenteufel, (euphonius name) of the 17<sup>th</sup> Mo. regiment has arrived from St. Louis, and assumed command of the 1st Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, and Col. Greusel has consequently returned to his regiment. Fred has

also resumed his old position of Sergeant Major.

Truly your friend,

A. Keyes.

Camp Hawkins,  
April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Sherwood: -- I received your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> of February some time ago, and for several reasons have not answered it before. The main reason was, that about that time I noticed that my pile of stationery was growing beautifully less, and I decided to write to no one but father, but this morning I happened to run across a man, who had more paper than he needed, and I bought a few sheets from him. The last time I wrote home we were at Gad Fly, guarding a mill, since then we have moved about ninety miles east, and are now stationed five miles east of Forsyth, on the White River, guarding a mill. The whole regiment is here. I have heard that our division of the army has now no enemy to contend with, and we are to be scattered all over the country to keep down "jay hawkers" until the war is over.

Our camp is named by Col. Greusel, after an Aurora man. I believe he is some connection of Charley H, of Elgin. We are right among the Ozark Mountains. We have traveled four days over the highest mountains I ever saw. One day we climbed to the top of a mountain, and looking back down the road could see the infantry, cavalry and artillery tugging up the rocky roads, and off to the left we could see for thirty or forty miles nothing but hills and rocks. Sometimes we would travel all day without seeing a bit of water, and I have taken my cup out of my haversack and drank the water from the puddles in the road.

I am in hopes that before long we will get something to eat, for all we have had since I can remember is biscuit and coffee. The biscuits are made out of flour, water and salt, but yesterday some of the boys went out of camp about four miles and bought five quarts of sour milk for half a dollar, and we had some good biscuits.

Frank.

*AB, 5-8-1862*

LETTER FROM THE 36<sup>TH</sup>.

Camp Hawkins, Fondy Co. Mo.  
April 17, 1862

Ed. Beacon: I arrived here from Springfield last night, and am once more among the boys of our own 36<sup>th</sup>. It left Forsyth yesterday morning and is now doing duty guarding a mill, which the Col. is running night and day, grinding secesh wheat into good union flour. The boys are in a good health, and despite of the hard marches and short allowances they have been compelled to put up with, they are in good spirits. I met Davis' and Asboth's brigades on the road from Springfield here, marching north. It is reported in camp today that we are to march tomorrow, but how true it is I have not, the means of knowing,

The country about here is very quiet; but little is known of the whereabouts of Price, though it is reported that he has gone toward Memphis. As soon as I learn anything new I will let you hear from me again.

Bill.

*AB, 5-22-1862*

LETTER FROM CAPT. MILLER OF THE 36<sup>th</sup>

Camp Salem, Fulton Co., Arkansas  
April 30, 1862

The details of the march of the army of the southwest across a country so barren, desolate, uninhabitable and repulsive as the southern tier of counties in Missouri would have been not uninteresting at a time when it was not eclipsed by every day accounts of events terribly momentous on account of the interested, and rendered appealing by their bloody magnitude.

The march from Keatsville through Berry, Taney, Ozark, Douglas and Howell counties to Salem County, Arkansas is for the most part as devoid of any attractive features which should characterize a civilized country as perdition itself could well be. In fact, the theory concerning this country is that it, with its barren mountains and deep impenetrable gorges, was created by Noah's having thrown his ballast overboard here, and that it is never to be inhabited until his Satanic majesty shall have fully peopled his dominions elsewhere. The whole surface,

covered with flinty fragments of rocks ranging in size from Hickory nuts to hen's egg, scarcely yields a scanty existence to the scrawny shrub oaks which are hardy and persistent enough to ring nourishment from such a soil. In some parts of Douglas and Ozark, pine grows quite luxuriantly along the streams the waters of all of which are clear and bright. West Plains is the name of a town and valley of a few miles width, somewhat rocky but with a soil otherwise very similar to an Illinois prairie; a rich alluvium but covered with a scattering growth of young oaks. If any participator could write an *attractive* description of a march of 200 miles, by a winding route, over mountains and swollen streams, through long deep ravines, during very rainy or very warm weather, in a country infested with wood ticks, jiggers, (or chiggers?), diamond-headed body guards," "swifts," black ants, moccasins, tarantulas, centipedes and rattle snakes; which even the copper buttons themselves forsake; where pigeons and buzzards in flying over first buckle on their wings a well filled haversack; you may conclude that the person did not go on foot; that he didn't have to wait at night after dark on the motions of a galled, jaded, starved six-mule team for his own scanty supper of bacon and biscuits, and that he didn't sleep in promiscuous company half the time without the shelter of a tent. So far as I am concerned, I am perfectly willing that this shall remain forever an *enemy's* country.

There is however very little discontent expressed; but very little sickness, and a general disposition to do, to hear and suffer all and anything which contributes to the achievement of the desired result.

We occasionally hear from home. The last advices contained a crumb of personal interest to me. Bear with the intrusion if I notice it. It is only an outgrowth of what I regard as a disgraceful, disgusting dog eat dog war which has been waged in this regiment from it's organization. *Discord*, being the element on which it lives must be produced in some way. Hence the article in the Elgin "Gazette" to which I allude. I do not write to vindicate my own conduct at any time, but to contrast the truth with the false and to challenge any person to amend for the better, any command or movement executed by my command during the battle, and to build any apprehensions on the part of any relatives of my boys, which would arise from the imputation of inefficiency or cowardice on my part. Pardon me for asking you to publish a part of your paper with this much of Mr. Joslyn's production.

*One of Greusel's pets over whose great deeds a neighboring journal has been crackling ever since the battle, was ordered to advance with his company, to gain a piece of woods, where they might pick off the enemy's guards! As he did not advance, another company was ordered forward. When the Captain of the last company came up he found the gallant Captain of the first company safe behind----, he frankly confessed that for once he hesitated between duty and safety.*

*Captain No. 2 led his men under a galling fire to the desired position. The other company did not follow.*

You have already published the truth concerning this transaction, although not written for publication. All the amendments I have to offer to the article are that the person alluded to is *not* a pet of Greusel. That he was ordered to advance the companies, leaving his own in charge of a Lieutenant, (when one of those “accomplished officers” should have been put in charge and, the Captain left with his own company); that the order was immediately and promptly obeyed; that the Captain of the last company did not come up until sent for by me on account of part of Company K, having fired away all of their ammunition; that by his own confession in a letter to the *Gazette*, the “*Gallant Captain of Company No. 2*,” sheltered themselves behind trees, logs and stumps as the others who were in the open field to the left of them did not do, that company No. 2 did not at any time advance a foot beyond the line of either of the others and consequently gave no chance to follow them.

However doubtful we should be respecting the Rev. Joslyn’s conduct on a like occasion, his brothers did act gallantly, but not more so than any other officer of the regiment. I earnestly hope that I will be spared the humiliation of being dragged into notoriety by a man who willingly sinks manhood in a selfish desire to manufacture capital for himself and his friends. If he would rest the case upon facts which can be established, I am content. If he desires to win by detraction, abuse, effrontery and falsehood, I surrender to the *Reverend* Editor unconditionally. My only hope then is that I may prove too small game at too long a range to draw the fire of a piece of his immense *bore*. A man possessing the brains to run a newspaper of a city the size of Elgin, should find more weighty matters to occupy his attention. If however this misfortune is incidentally necessary to the manufacture of the essential capital to foist the talent of the Joslyn family in the future service of our country, I shall suffer in silence.

The *Gazette* Editorial is based upon a letter from a lying coward who belongs to the Elgin Company which did not fire a gun during the battle, and who was not and would not have been with them if they had. He left out the artillery from the paper received here and destroyed it in -----not come to light. It was no fault of the company or its excellent young commanding officer, that it was not engaged. Detraction, the Elder’s favorite weapon is seldom used by men who have deeds of worth of their own to refer to; while falsehood destroys character and manhood not in those against whom it is brought to bear, but only on those by whom it is employed. If it will relieve the viper, make him lose-----better than for his own sake, let him throw his venom, no matter what it blights.

Silas Miller

**Moved to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, May 11-22, thence to Hamburg  
Landing, Tennessee, May 23-29, 1862**

Curtis had originally planned to go on and take Little Rock, but he had to cancel his plans when Union General Halleck requisitioned ten of his regiments for the siege of Corinth, Mississippi. Instead, the 36<sup>th</sup> was sent across the White River and marched back into Missouri to Cape Girardeau. It then went by steam boat to Cairo, and on up the Ohio River to Paducah, Kentucky. Its fame had preceded it, the crowds of Union loyalists gathered along the river banks to cheer the heroes of Pea Ridge.

*EG, 5-28-1862*

ARMY CORRESPONDENCE

FROM CAPT. M. B. BALDWIN

Camp First Cotton, Ark.  
May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1862

Well, we are fourteen miles east of Batesville. We crossed the White River and marched 14 miles towards Little Rock, when we were ordered to about face. It is said 11 regiments are ordered to Tennessee. Gen. Osterhause goes on with the balance of the army to Little Rock. He made a speech to us on parting in which he said, "every man could not be a Major General, but, mine Got, I believe every Illinois boy ought to be." We are now under Gen. Asboth, Col. Noblesdorf, acting Brigadier. We are going to the Mississippi River – strike the river at Cape Gerardeau – some 200 miles. Are to take 12 day's rations. Suppose the roads are very bad. Our transportation is nearly worn out. It seems impossible that they can be driven through in their poor jaded and galled condition, with the loads they have to draw. It is supposed we are destined for Corinth. Report says Halleck ordered us to come as soon as possible. It is hard on the boys. We can't march to the river in less than 12 days, and more probably it will take 15. We expect to be on half rations or none, before we get through. But that's nothing only *soldiers* hungry. I am quite well. The boys marching every day. I am not troubled with my lungs at all, except the external feelings of tired, which is most disagreeable. We do not

hear from Ed. or Judge, only that they have got home. Things are moving along quietly in the regiment. Capt. Jenks is acting Major.

The boys from Elgin are all well. Wakeman wished me to send word to Perkins or Miller that the Richmond boys are all well.

Cape Girardeau, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We arrived at this place to day at half past one o'clock, making the last 200 miles by forced marches, in 10 days, one day of the time was lost in getting across the Currant River. The poor boys are tired and worn out, many of them footsore. They have marched some 1000 miles since they left Rolla. I am confident that this division of the grand army has endured more from privations and hardships than any other. The boys are mostly well. Taylor has been sick but is getting quite smart. Wickwire, Blackman, Pat Brannon, Bent Rowland, Linax, and one or two others, have been unable to march, some having rode all the way from Batesville; others managed a part of the time. We found the boys sent from Bentonville to Springfield sick, on our arrival here, excepting John Burr, who was not able to leave, but doing well, and George Kimball, of Believen's Mills, McHenry Co. No better or truer man ever engaged in the cause. He was not only respected by the boys, but beloved by everybody who knew him.

The Adjutant just called and notified me that our pay accounts must be made out tonight. We march at four o'clock in the morning for the steamer, going down the river to Corinth, so you see I will have no sleep tonight. I can see no use in rushing men through at such a rate, we are ordered to cook 4 day's rations. *Great God*, you can sympathize and imagine the hardships, but the half is not told. We cannot send our money home unless the Paymaster will take it, as Halleck has put an embargo on letters and all mail matter, coming from the army, home.

Yours, &c.

M. B. Baldwin.

WS, 5-28-1862

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT  
THE WOODSTOCK RIFLES GOING DOWN TO PITTSBURG TO  
REINFORCE GEN. HALLECK

Batesville, Ark., May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1862

## EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL :

My last note was written from the camp near West Plains, occupied by Gen. Asboth's division. The next morning we started on our chase, and at night, tired and weary, arrived at Salem, and learned that the 36<sup>th</sup> had again flown. They had commenced a forced march toward the interior of the State and had been gone three hours. We overtook them at this place. Salem is a very small hamlet, situated at the base of Pilot Hill. The road there, passes through a country somewhat better than the most that I saw in Missouri. Batesville is the most beautiful place I have seen since I left Illinois. In size, it is equal to Woodstock, but the population has never reached 800. The White River, a large navigable stream, passes along southwest of the town, and about half a mile distant.

The boys in the regiment are all busy. Some are cooking the evening meal, some are laughing, lounging and smoking, while others are engaged in trimming fish poles, or strolling away through the woods. It is a strange scene indeed. I realize that we are now "away down south in Dixie." It is almost mid summer here – roses, honeysuckles and jasmynes blossom in profusion. While that portion of Missouri which I have seen, is but little more than a barren waste, unfit for homes of civilized man, here all at once, we have entered upon a land which appears beautiful beyond description. While the common people in Missouri are generally very ignorant, and untrustworthy, here they are intelligent, and in many cases refined. In Missouri a man may profess himself to you as a Union man, and shot you at his first opportunity. Here the men avow their sentiments openly, whether they be Union or secesh, and in either case act as gentlemen. The ladies too, are well behaved and intellectual. The difference between the two States, in the face of the country, is truly remarkable; but far more remarkable, is the difference between their inhabitants in appearance, knowledge and morals. It is impossible to tell anything about our future movements only this, we believe we are going to Little Rock. A few days since, as our advance guard entered the town, they surprised some of Col. Coleman's pickets, and took five prisoners. The rebels, 400 strong, were posted on the west bank of the river, just where we are now camped. A few well directed shots from our mountain howitzer made them scatter, and take refuge in the cane brake. They are said to have taken the road southward, toward Little Rock. Capt. McBride, of jayhawking notoriety, was wounded by a shot, and has since been found dead.

The 36<sup>th</sup> came out on dress parade yesterday, and performed admirably. They are emphatically one of the first, if not the very first regiment in the brigade, and this is the first brigade of the army. Hence you see we are always in advance. We are the first to go ahead, and the last to return. Your correspondent "H.," has been very sick, and still is unwell. For this reason, he has been unable to send his regular letters. All the rest of the boys in companies A and H are, I believe, hale

and hearty at present.

Yours,

S.

WS, 5-28-1862

Saturday, May 10, 1862.

All predictions in regard to the movements of an army are, to say the least, very uncertain. No officer of a less rank than Brigadier General, can tell with any degree of certainty, the future movements of the body of men to which he is attached. Of the truth of this assertion, we have had ample evidence during the past few days.

On Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, we struck our tents at Batesville, and with drums beating and colors flying, marched through the town and down the river about a mile to the ferry.

The ferry being but a poor contrivance erected temporarily for the transportation of the troops destined for the Southwest, and river flowing swiftly, it was newly made before all our transportation wagons were across. That night we camped near the banks of the river. The next day we struck off for the stream towards the middle of the State, and went five miles. Friday morning, long before break of day, we heard the reveille, ate a hurried breakfast, struck our tents, and traveled gaily along the edge of the woods. This time there was no mistaking our destination, we were on the road to Little Rock, and expected soon to see our tents at the Capital of the State. At about 8 o'clock in the forenoon, we halted, and prepared to camp for the day. We little knew what was in store for us. Hardly were our dinners prepared, when the order came to strike our tents, pack up our things, and prepare to march. Where now, asked the boys. To Tennessee! was the reply. All being ready, general order no. 14 was read, and a few remarks made by General Osterhaus, in which he complimented the 36<sup>th</sup> very highly. The boys felt well, all was excitement. Three cheers were given, each, for Gen. Osterhaus, Col. Greusel, the 1<sup>st</sup> division, the regiment, the Union, and the State of Illinois, and again we were on our way. This morning we re-crossed the river, I hope for the last time, and are now in camp, on a small bayou, about a mile to the east of the village. The movements in camp today show that we are now about to start on a hard and forced march. Tomorrow morning early, we shall be on our way towards Cape Girardeau, on the Mississippi River. All the sick in the regiment are left here at the post hospital. We have left but one Godfry Jackson, from company H, and he is left by his own request, as he did not feel able to endure the fatigue incident to a forced march during this hot weather. He has been quite sick with typhoid

fever, and though not out of danger, is still quite weak. He will soon be home on a furlough.

The weather has been almost intolerably hot during the past few days, but the nights are very pleasant. Sentinels of April 14<sup>th</sup> just at hand. Send all letters and papers for the 36<sup>th</sup>, to Tennessee hereafter.

Yours, S.

*AB, 6-5-1862*

### ARMY CORRESPONDENCE

Batesville, Arkansas

May 12, 1862

The 36<sup>th</sup> regiment left here, on Sunday morning, and are now on their way to Tennessee, as we suppose. Sergt. Douglas, of Jenk's Cavalry, met us eight miles out of the town, and brought forward the packages and letters which were sent to that regiment, and yesterday, Orderly Reynolds came into our camp and got the box of hospital stores, which the ladies of Aurora sent to the regiment.

I wish you readers to know that the U S Express Company, refused to allow the box to be transported over the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis R.R. without giving the company the privilege of charging and collecting \$5.80 express charges, for transporting a box of hospital stores from Chicago to St. Louis. I paid the charges, took the company's receipt and Col. Greusel refunded the money, by the hand of Sergt. Reynolds, and has the receipt; and I hope the Col. or some of your readers, will shame some of the officers of the Company, for such an ungrateful act towards the men who are sacrificing so much to protect the rights and interests of the country.

The mails to and from the army are very irregular and uncertain, and your readers must not blame their friends or borrow trouble if they do not hear from us often.

The latest news we have from Aurora's of the date of the 18<sup>th</sup> of April, and there is no telling when we shall be blessed with another word from our friends.

P.

*AB, 5-29-1862*

### THE THIRTY-SIXTH.

The 36<sup>th</sup> arrived at Cape Girardeau, Mo., at 2 o'clock on the afternoon of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, and left again on the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, bound up the Tennessee

River for Corinth. They left Batesville, Arkansas on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and joined Asboth's Division, twelve miles eastward, on the Smithville Road.

Asboth's Division consists of the 44<sup>th</sup> Illinois, 2d and 15<sup>th</sup> Missouri, several German regiments, and our own 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois. At the Cape, the regiments drew five days rations.

Our latest information from the 36<sup>th</sup> left them on the march from Pittsburg Landing to Corinth. 1000 men are fit for service.

### **Occupation of Corinth, Mississippi on May 30, 1862**

By late May, the boys were in the siege lines before Corinth. The Confederate commander there, Pierre Beauregard, had decided to abandon that important railroad junction in northern Mississippi without firing a shot. The siege proved anti - climactic.

*GCH 6-11-1862*

#### **SOLDIERS**

Having all the Laws pertaining to claims against the Government, and having received instructions direct from the Department, we are prepared to obtain for soldiers (or if they are dead, for their widows or heirs,) all that may be due them. Pensions for life to all disabled by wounds or disease, and continued after death of soldier to his widow or children. Back Pay due soldiers or (if dead) their widows and heirs. Bounty – one hundred dollars – to all who serve “two years or during the war,” or this obtained immediately for the widow and heirs of all killed, or who have died of disease contracted in the service.

All claims in your hands attended to and money obtained immediately.  
No Charge unless successful.

E. SANFORD,  
Agent for soldier's claims.

*WS, 6-11-1862*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

On board the Steamer Planet  
Going up the Tennessee River  
Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1862

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL :

When I last wrote, I stated that we probably were on our way to Tennessee. For once my guess was correct. At Batesville we left all our sick, and in the company of the 44<sup>th</sup> Illinois, and the 25<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Missouri regiments, all under the command of General Asboth, began a forced march towards the Mississippi River. The weather was very hot and most of the traveling was done by night. We moved from 20 to 30 miles per day. The fatigue incident to a hurried, forced march may be better felt than described. Moonlight scenes at home, among friends may be pleasant, romantic, and even lonely; but I can assure you that a hurried march by moonlight, through an enemy's country is anything but agreeable. At least, I in common with the rest of the boys, found it so. Generally the reveille was beat at from one to two o'clock in the morning, and we made camp about four in the afternoon.

Then supper was to be cooked, tents pitched, and a hurried rest taken preparatory to the labor of the coming day. On one occasion we had arrived in camp about the middle of the afternoon. We cooked our scanty evening meal, and retired to rest early, for we knew there was work to be done on the morrow. At half past ten that evening, the drums called us into line, the tents were struck, and before midnight, the boys already nearly exhausted, were again on the road.

The succeeding afternoon, when we camped, less than one fourth of the men were on hand to stack their arms, the rest, wearied by unceasing toil, and the extraordinary heat of the day, had to use an expression more forcible than elegant, "played out." Many were the feet scalded and blistered by the sharp flint over which we walked, and many were the anathemas heaped upon the officers by the wearied and footsore boys. At times the rays of the sun seemed absolutely scalding, and but little more heat was requisite to bring the water in our canteens up to the boiling point. I shall never forget the march, I never wish to see another like it. Only once were we regaled with a shower, and then it rained nearly till night, and gave us a thorough wetting through. The tents afforded but very little

protection from the driving shower. At Current River, a deep swift flowing stream, we again arrived on the soil of Missouri. Had we known nothing else in regard to our location, the appearance of the country and the ignorance of the people, would have assured us that we had crossed the line. Six miles this side of Current River, where I stopped for a few moments, the lady of the house, about 30 years of age, assured me that she had long wished to see the river, but that she had never yet been so far from home. What wonder that people are ignorant, when the circuit of their lives is circumscribed by a circle of twelve miles in diameter!

The roads were quite bad until we arrived at Dallas, from which point to the river, the road has been graded and graveled, at the expense of the State, and is one of the finest turnpikes that I ever saw. Dallas is a pretty little town about half the size of Woodstock. It has several very fine residences, and all the streets are thoroughly graded. Many of the houses were deserted, and I noticed that several had been burned. This is noted as being the point where the first secesh regiment was raised in south eastern Missouri. That portion of the State between Dallas and the river, is a finer farming country than the rest that I have passed over. It is well watered and heavily wooded, as is all the rest of the State that I have seen, but is not so rocky and barren as I had expected to find. Thursday evening as Cape Girardeau appeared in the distance, many a heart in the 36<sup>th</sup> felt lighter, many a foot stepped quicker, for we all felt that we should remain in camp a few days, at least, to rest. But the next morning, bright and early, reveille was sounded, four days rations were dealt out and cooked, a very few hurried letters were written, tents and camp equipage were packed, a few clothes dealt out to the most needy only, and by 4 o'clock p.m. we were on board this fine vessel, on the way to Pittsburg Landing.

Cape Girardeau is a town of about 3000 inhabitants, mostly German. The houses are mostly of brick, the streets are narrow and dirty. The fort on the top of the bluff, is only a rude earthwork of very questionable strength. It contains six 24 pounders, and commands the river so thoroughly that it would be almost impossible for any vessel to pass.

Leaving Cape Girardeau, preceded by the 44<sup>th</sup>, and followed by the two Missouri regiments, and bidding the citizens who had strewn our way to the boat with garlands of flowers, farewell, with a great waving of handkerchiefs, we started. Cairo was passed in the night, and a little after sunrise, Paducah was in view. After coaling, we again started, and at night came to an anchor at Fort Henry, once one of the strongholds of the enemy, but now occupied by a regiment of Indiana volunteers.

Many of the boys visited the fort during the night. It is situated on a bend of the river, on the eastern side, and occupies a fine position. It is not as strong a place, judging from present appearances, as I had expected to find.

Today, Sunday, the regiment is being paid off, and we also have a general inspection. The boys are all busy, cleaning up their muskets.

I find that in the army, Sunday is no more respected than any other day, in fact, I believe most of the long marches are begun on that day. I can see no reason why the boys could not have been paid off yesterday, and have had inspection either then or tomorrow. But I am not a military man, and I will not criticize. Rev. G. G. Lyon still holds the position of Chaplain in the regiment.

While he has been and still is, as I understand, drawing his pay, about ----- dollars a month as Chaplain, with the rank of Captain, I am informed by the boys that he has not been with them since they left Sugar Creek – and that he has not preached to the regiment since they left Rolla, in January last. I am also informed by Col. Greusel, that he is now acting as private secretary to Gen. Sigel, and drawing pay in that position. Verily some men go to war from patriotic (?) motives. Possibly the Reverend gentleman may have thought the boys such heathens that he preferred to labor elsewhere and leave them to their certain fate. But the Holy Writ admonishes me to “judge not, lest I be judged,” and I hesitate, lest I might misconstrue the gentleman’s motive in thus leaving the regiment to seek out its own salvation.

By tomorrow noon we expect to be at Pittsburg Landing at which place I will write again. No Sentinels received later than April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Yours, S.

**Attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 5<sup>th</sup> Division, Army of Mississippi until September,  
1862**

**Pursuit to Booneville, Mississippi, May 31 – June 6, 1862**

*EG, 6-18-1862*

## THE 36<sup>th</sup>

Capt. M. B. Baldwin arrived at home on Thursday last, direct from Corinth. His health precludes the possibility of his remaining in the army, and he has tendered his resignation. Lieut. Sherman writes that the company are much attached to their Captain, and part with him reluctantly. All the letters of officers and privates agree that he has proved himself an able, efficient officer, and a true friend. "A better man," they say, "never lived." It must be grateful to the feelings of the Captain, while suffering from disease, to know that he bears with him, in his retirement, the confidence and esteem of his entire command. Col. E. S. Joslyn and Capt. M. L. Joslyn had arrived at Corinth before Capt. B. left. Ed. remained at Corinth and saw the Captain on board the steamboat, and homeward bound, but Judge pushed on and joined the regiment, some 30 miles south. Col. Greusel's health is poor, and he only awaits the arrival of Col. Joslyn, to come home to recruit. The health of the regiment is excellent. They are encamped in a pleasant grove, with good water, and living well. It is thought there will be no more active service in this army until September, and if Richmond is taken, they may never be in action again. The Elgin and Plato boys are well and hearty. The Captain thinks their short rations in Arkansas, and their hard marching, has toughened them so they will stand almost anything.

The 36<sup>th</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> have been within visiting distance, and the boys think it is the next thing to coming home, to see so many old, familiar faces. Nearly all the troops from this section are now in the army below Corinth.

*WS, 6-18-1862*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REG'T

Camp of 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Regt. 6 miles south  
of Corinth Miss., Sunday, June 1, '62.

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL :

Corinth is ours. Undoubtedly long before this, the news has been flashed along the telegraph wire from Maine to Minnesota. It was first occupied by our troops on Friday morning.

The 36<sup>th</sup> regiment was awakened Monday morning by the welcome intelligence that we were at Pittsburg Landing. There is but a single house at the landing, and it is deserted.

The water here, and for miles up the river, is deep enough for steamers to lay up close to land. To the right of the landing proper, is a steep bluff, about 200 feet in height, behind which, I am told, nearly four regiments took refuge, when driven

back on the first day of the battle. Directly south of the bluff, and across a valley which forms the landing, is a second hill, differing from the former only in the fact, that it is covered with a thick growth of timber. Beyond this, a deep stream is found flowing into the river. The gunboats, only two in number, on the first day of the battle, were placed on the eastern side of the Tennessee, and directly opposite the mouth of this stream. As our frightened troops came flying over the brow of the bank, retiring before the overwhelming force of the enemy, a perfect shower of balls from these two boats came pouring over the hill, arresting the progress of the victorious enemy, and protecting our newly disheartened regiments, but not until many of our poor boys had been drowned in the deep, rapid current of both creek and river.

Had it not been for the gun boats, our defeat would have been certain and sure.

But they, with shot and shell, checked the pursuit of the then victorious rebels, and during the ensuing night, our reserves crossed the river, and on the morrow turned the scale.

The whole affair, in the opinion of the soldiers here, and I think they are not far from correct, was, on the part of general Grant, a stupid, and almost unpardonable blunder. And this, one mistake of his life, has brought sorrow, yes, even desolation to many a northern home. The battle ground extends from the bank back for about a mile, over a level field. It is now covered with tents, but you can tell by the balls and grape shot strewn around, that here has been fought a battle, which in coming years, will fill many a historic page.

From Pittsburg Landing we moved up the river about four miles to Hamburg, a small dirty village, considerably less in size than Ridgefield.

The whole river, from the landing to Hamburg, and even beyond, is lined with large steamers, bringing men, horses, ammunition and provisions.

As soon as you ascend the bank, here very steep, you are astonished at the vast amount of provisions and army utensils here stored. The bank, for miles along the river, is piled with them. Mule trains come in and leave for the army as fast as they can be loaded. The country hereabout, as well as at Pittsburg, is quite low, not very hilly, and in many places slightly swampy. It is all heavily timbered.

Wednesday we struck tents and started for the scene of action, with two days provisions in our haversacks. The next morning just before reaching Farmington, a village of 5 deserted houses, we heard the roll of musketry just ahead. The firing was quite sharp for about fifteen minutes, and then ceased. It proceeded, as I afterward learned, from the accidental meeting of two regiments of our troops, acting as pickets, and three regiments of the enemy, who were routed. After we had marched and counter marched several times, for what purpose, I not being a military man, was unable to see, we camped, that is, we lay down on the ground

within about a mile of the enemy's lines, remained during the night and next day. Directly in front of us were two large Parrott guns, which at times threw shot into Corinth, some of which did execution. Corinth is naturally a strong position. Within a circuit of about 30 miles, the country about is a region of hills and swamps, or rather "sink holes" without roads, without bridges, and almost without inhabitants. There is a long swamp or series of swamps, extending between what were the lines of the contending forces, in which infantry would sink up to the knees. Cavalry and Artillery could not pass.

The only way in which we could cross these swamps was by either building roads, or by traveling on those built by the enemy. Beauregard had apparently chosen this as his retreat, on account of the utter inaccessibility which it presented to an attacking force. He also had an eye to the two railroads which here cross each other by means of which he has made a most masterly retreat.

At the present moment, we are posted in line of battle, waiting for something, we do not know what. The woods about, for miles to either side, are full of our regiments, all as near as I can learn, at present in battle array. There is a rumor floating about to the effect that our advance has cut off a body of the enemy, and is driving them back, but I doubt the correctness of the report.

Every hour or thereabouts, we hear firing in the distance. Sometimes to the south, then to the southeast, and again to the west. Probably some of Gen. Rosencran's forces who are in the advance, are shelling or bagging the retreating rebels. Let me here state that rumors in camp are never to be believed, any more than the telegraphic reports from here, as published in the Chicago papers. These last are mere guesses, very rarely "hitting the truth," and gotten up generally for speculative purposes. No dependence can be put on newspaper reports of matters transpiring here, except such as come from regular correspondents, whose integrity is known. None other are reliable, no matter where published or by whom. Yesterday about noon we came upon a camp of the enemy on the southern branch of the railroad. It appeared to be a Quartermaster's depot, and we found and took a fine supply of provisions such as sugar, rice, flour and bacon. They burned their tents, wagons and harnesses, together with cooking utensils and about 2000 guns. The bacon and sugar had been set on fire, but it wouldn't burn. Their camp fires were still burning, as we entered the camp.

Everything betokened a hasty evacuation. Deserters have been coming in from the enemy for several days, "and still they come." They state that the army is becoming terribly demoralized, that the Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky and Tennessee volunteers are disheartened, and going off, as they can, by squads. But they state that the true Southerners, those who live further south, are more determined than ever. They say they will flee to the swamps, and carry on a guerilla warfare if it becomes necessary.

Since reaching the army lines we have had less variety of provisions than before. Our rations now consist of hard crackers, bacon, coffee, sugar and beans. No flour is allowed. The hard crackers, or pilot bread deserves a passing remark. It was said by the boys when at Rolla, that their crackers, judging from their hardness, solidity and taste, must have been made at, or before, the time of the Revolutionary war. But still the precise date of their manufacture was shrouded in doubt, until one of them, more observing than the rest, discovered upon some of the boxes the letters B. C. That mystery was solved. The bread was hardening when Peter denied his master! But seriously, a hard army cracker is nearly as hard as a brickbat, and some of the boys declare will do to tap boots with, in the place of sole leather.

The health of the regiment is good, but few of the boys are ailing, and none are very sick. Our regiment is now in the right brigade of Gen. Pope's division, which forms the left wing of the army.

*AB, 6-19-1862*

Camp near Corinth,  
Miss., June 6, 1862

DEAR GEORGE; -- I am still back, holding in "glorious inactivity," although there is a prospect of catching up with the boys as we have been moving the luggage of the companies for some days, and as soon as I can get ambulances for the sick men I shall go on. The regiment is camped about 25 miles from here in one of the finest locations they have ever been in. It is on the line of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, and has a splendid spring of excellent water close to the camp. I do not know how long they will stay there, of course, but from what the boys tell me who have come back, they are fixing things up as if they calculated to make it their abiding place for some time. This coupled with the fact that General Halleck told an officer of our regiment a day or two since, that he should stay there till after the Fourth of July, making us think we should not move for some time.

It is amusing to residents here to read the "splendid correspondence" of the city papers. The most egregious exaggerations and the stories made out of whole cloth are given with all the gravity in the world. Men who pretend to know tell me that there is not a regular newspaper correspondent within the finest and this much I know, that a young man who has a brother in this regiment, was sent out to the regiment in Missouri as a correspondent of the Chicago paper that employed him and has gone home. From what I know of city newspaper life, and I have been employed in various capacities in the city newspaper office for years, I suspect that

the “special correspondence in Corinth is manufactured in the office of several papers who pretend to receive them. At all events there are many of them stupidly incorrect. I have also heard the boys have many a hearty laugh over the maps of this locality, which come to us in some of the papers. I would like to see a man try to find his way from Hamburg to Corinth by one of those maps. It would answer as well for a map of Aurora, Montgomery, Oswego and Bristol, and the country between them, and would be as correct a representation of that, country as it is of this. Not one point in a dozen approaches anything near the truth.

Some of the boys in the neighboring regiments were looking around the other day and came across the grave of a Major in the Confederate service, who, according to his head board was wounded at the battle of Shiloh, and who died shortly after. The boys, suspicious that there was a cat in the meal, dug down and came across a splendid cannon. Many more guns buried under such false pretences, will probably be discovered upon further investigation. This dodge was a shrewd one at any rate.

Lieut. Colonel and Captain Joslyn rejoined the regiment a day or two since. Their health are recovered, and they are ready for service. When I get to the army and find out anything that will be news to you, I will write you again.

Bill.

P. S. Send me some postage stamps, they cost nine cents apiece, and hard to get at that.

*EG, 6-25-1862*

SPECIAL ORDER FROM COL. GREUSEL

Aurora, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1862.

To all soldiers belonging to the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Ill. Volunteers on furlough or sick leave, who have removed and whose furloughs have expired, are requested

to report in person or by letter to the undersigned, at Aurora, Kane County, giving their Post Office address, so that they can be furnished with transportation to their regiment.

By order of Col. N. Greusel.

N. B.-- Should any soldier who is well, neglect to obey this order, he will be arrested by the County Sheriff and taken to Chicago as a deserter.

By order of N. Greusel

Col. 36<sup>th</sup> Reg. Ill. Vol.

*AB, 7-3-1862*

Aurora, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1862

By reason of the promotion of Rev. Geo. G. Lyon, to a position upon the staff of Gen. Sigel, there is a vacancy in the Chaplaincy, in the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Any Clergyman wishing the situation, and complying with the order of the War Department, by furnishing a certificate of endorsement from his last congregation, his application will be received by the undersigned, until the tenth instant and transmitted to the regiment for confirmation and commission.

N. Greusel

Col. Commanding

Papers of Kendall, Grundy, Kane and McHenry, please copy.

The 36<sup>th</sup> celebrated the second July 4<sup>th</sup> of the war in Rienzi, Mississippi, with the reading of the Declaration of Independence and the booming of cannon.

*EG, 7-9-1862*

### THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS.

Captain Baldwin received letters yesterday from the 36<sup>th</sup>. They are still in camp a few miles from Corinth. The health of the regiment is excellent. A number of Captains and Lieutenants have tendered their resignations. Among them we understand is Captain Adams, of Wayne. Col. Greusel is on his way

back, and when he arrives; the long standing difficulties among the officers will be adjusted by a reorganization that we hope may harmonize matters and promote the efficiency of this splendid regiment.

Orders have been issued to detail officers to recruiting service, so that under the new call for troops, the old regiments may be filled up to the maximum standard. In the organization of new regiments, we hope such disposition will be made as to render the organizations more harmonious than many of the old ones have been. At first this could not be secured as all were strangers, but now, friendships have sprung up and fitness been tested, and we trust our forces may be made still more effective.

### **Duty at Rienzi, Mississippi until September 6, 1862**

*AB, 7-24-1862*

LETTERS FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

Rienzi, Miss., July, 1862

Thinking that probably a few lines from the 36<sup>th</sup> would not be unacceptable to your readers, I have concluded to furnish them. We are encamped in a beautiful grove of oaks, near the village of Rienzi, which is one of the stations on the Ohio and Mobile Railroad, and is the present terminus of our portion of the road. For some reason Uncle Samuel don't send his trains any farther south at present, perhaps it is on account of the hot weather that prevails beyond us. We have the finest and most lovely camp ground that we have ever occupied. It is thickly covered with thrifty young oaks that give us constant shade and protection from the sun, which is an item in the climate at this season of the year. Col. Joslyn who is in command of the regiment, is very rigid and makes the men keep the camp clean as a parlor. The regiment has never been in better condition than it is today. We have only two men in hospital, and they are nearly ready for duty. Everything in and about the regiment is moving on regularly and smoothly. I have never known the men more contented nor in better spirits than at present. They are highly elated with the glorious news from Richmond and Vicksburg. They imagine that they see the time drawing nearer when this infernal rebellion will be effectually strangled, and they, honorably released from their bondage and allowed to return to their

homes and once more mingle with their friends. They are satisfied that the thing is about played out, unless England persists in sticking her gluttonous and whiskey soaked nose into our business. If she interferes we shall serve our three years cheerfully, and reenlist another three years if necessary, to make her feel the strong arm of America's power. If she dare to interfere, the 36<sup>th</sup> propose to be a portion of Uncle Samuel's ditching party, who will just go and sink a canal around them Vicksburg like.

We are having plenty of rations now, and of good quality. We have several good bake ovens in the regiment with bakers to fit who furnish us fresh bread every day fully equal to Dumars Best. Black berries are so common that they are below par. We have had more of them than we could consume for the past four weeks. This country is a paradise compared to Missouri and Arkansas. The only objection that we find is, that they have bet the thing pretty hot. We reckon, however, that it will cool off if we give it time enough, which we are disposed to do. There is a strong force here and in this vicinity. The ground is covered with camps, and the woods alive with soldiers from Columbus, Kentucky to this place. The rebels are prowling around in the woods, beyond us. We have occasional scares, just enough to make the thing interesting. It is not generally believed that there is much of a force anywhere near us. Colonel Sheridan went some 50 miles south on the Boonville road without meeting and obstructions. The general impression is that they have pointed towards Richmond. One of our surgeons who was taken prisoner near Corinth before the rebels evacuated, tells the following joke on General Pope. Two or three days before the evacuation, while Pope was pressing their right, one of the rebel officers who had been at island no. 10, and had there heard of John Pope, came to Beauregard's quarters and enquired who that was that was advancing on the right. Beauregard replied John Pope. Well says the island no. 10 man, if that is John Pope, you just keep your eyes peeled for gun boats. A preacher who preached here in Rienzi on the Sunday before our troops entered the place, told his audience that when the Federal army got whipped and stampeded again as they did at Bull's Run, their exclamations would not be O God! But, O Gun Boats. Thus you see what kind of estimate they put on our gun boats. They now are the terror of the south and may soon be of the world.

Our regiment is somewhat scattered at present. Two companies B and C under command of Captain Silas Miller, are about three miles south of us, and form the extreme advance of our army. Whenever there is a position to be filled, that requires nerve and good judgment, Captain Miller is pretty certain to be selected. The officers and men have confidence in him.

Captain Jenks and his company are body guard to General Hamilton, and are camped about six miles north of us, toward Corinth. The Captain and his boys are well and in excellent condition and spirits. We are all proud of company A

Cavalry. We believe them to be the best drilled, and the best behaved cavalry company in this department, Company B Cavalry, under command of Lieutenant Frank E. Reynolds, are body guard to General Granger and are camped near Corinth. The company is improving in drill and discipline under their new commander. Captain Smith has got sick of the army and quit the service in disgust. Col. Greusel has not returned as yet, and Colonel Joslyn is in command. His health is still quite precarious, and I fear will compel him to resign. Major Barry stands the campaign well. His health continues good, and here as at home, the Major is in good repute with everybody. Geo, send me Beacons and I will keep you posted in the future.

Tattle Tale.

*WS, 7-30-1862*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>, -- Among the published lists of absentees from the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment, we find the following of company H. Unless they immediately return, they will be treated as deserters:

Frank Griffins, H, left Rolla, Mo., Nov. 13, on 30 days furlough, remained at home on account of sickness, has applied for discharge.

Elijah Adams, H, left at Rolla, Jan'y 14, received furlough, and is supposed to be at Elgin.

Geo. G. Jackson, H, left sick at Batesville, Ark., May 11.

Joseph Durgan, left sick at Cape Girardeau, May 23, 1862.

Daniel Clark, H, absent with leave since April 13, supposed to be discharged.

J. Guilford, H, absent with leave since May 23, supposed to be discharged.

Thomas Miller, H, deserted Feb. 19.

John Powell, H, fell out of ranks on the march, May 13, has not been heard from since.

Daniel Foster, H, left at Hamburg, Tennessee sick May 28.

H. T. Baldwin, corporal, H, left at Hamburg, Tenn. sick May 28.

Julius H. Wilbur, H, detailed April 6, to take care of Lieut. Col. Joslyn, left sick at Cassville, Mo. He accompanied Lt. Col. Joslyn on leave of absence. Has since fallen sick, and is now absent sick, and has been absent over two months.

George G. Lyon, Chaplain, left camp Hoffman with Gen. Sigel, about April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1862, without leave of absence, and is yet absent without leave.

2d Lieut. Chas. F. Dyke, H, accidentally wounded, absent on furlough.

*EG, 8-6-1862*

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON

A DRAFT OF 300,000 ADDITIONAL MEN ORDERED.

Washington, Aug., 4.

The following order has just been issued by the War Department:

Ordered, First --- That a draft of 300,000 militia be immediately called into the service of the United States, to serve for nine months, unless sooner discharged.

The Secretary of War will assign the quotas to the States and establish regulations for the draft.

Second, That if any State shall not by the 15<sup>th</sup> of August furnish its quota of the additional 300,000 volunteers authorized by law, the deficiency of volunteers in that State will also be made up by special draft from the militia. The Secretary of War will establish regulations for this purpose.

Third, Regulations will be prepared by the War Department and presented to the President with the object of securing the promotion of officers of the army and volunteers for meritorious and distinguished services, and preventing the nomination or appointment in the militia service of incompetent or unworthy officers,

Regulations will also provide for ridding the service of such incompetent persons as now hold commissions.

By the President.

Edwin M. Stanton, Secy of War.

*EG, 8-6-1862*

SUBJECT TO DRAFT.

The following list of the number in each town in Kane County subject to military duty was taken from the returns at Geneva.

St. Charles 279, Virgil 152, Sugar Grove 105, Rutland 100, Plato 123, Kaneville 156, Hampshire 104, Geneva 165, Dundee 241, Elgin 397, Campton

122, Big Rock 93, Blackberry 179, Burlington 106, Batavia 270. Aurora 1410.  
Total 4022.

*AB, 8-7-1862*

Rienzi, Miss., July 21, 1862

The most exciting occurrence of the past week has been the capture of Captain Pierse's wife by a scouting party of the secesh. She went outside of our infantry pickets with an ambulance and two of Capt. Pierse's company, for a short ride to secure some early vegetables, and as they knew that we had cavalry pickets some 12 miles out on the road, they felt perfectly safe on riding out some six miles from town, when all at once they were called upon to halt, and then told that they must go to Ripley, about 27 miles from this place. But, Mrs. P. says her self-appointed guides chose rather a long and crooked road to Ripley, and gave her a ride of about forty miles. She reports that she fared as well as she could have expected. They assisted her back to our pickets, the next day, and fortunately her husband arrived about fifteen minutes after she came there, and I rather think the Captain's mind was much relieved at finding her.

During the night Mrs. P. was at Ripley, a rain came on that demonstrated to us all, the necessity of caution in our movements in this country, and showed to many of us who could not before appreciate the need of so much de'ny in our operations, what troubles hang momentarily over our heads. The rain of that one night filled all the rivers and creek bottoms so that they were impassable to anything like an army train or artillery for two or three days, except where some bottoms have been bridged and causewayed. In all such bottoms hereabout the secesh have done all they could to render them impassable, by destroying the bridges. It is easy to say we should repair such roads, but things take more time than many people are aware of, and we find that when it rains in the country, it pours.

I have just returned from a visit to Mr. Aughey, who has lately escaped from the secesh prison, where he was confined in irons, charged with being a Federal spy, and buying cotton contrary to the laws of the Confederacy. The Judge Advocate who happened to be an acquaintance of Mr. Aughey's informed him that the nature of the evidence against him was such that he had little room to hope for anything but a speedy and easy death, and advised him to call for a clergyman if he wished the presence of one. But Mr. Aughey managed to escape about one week since and has been lying out in the woods and making his way to our lines, which he reached on Saturday last. During the month that he was in prison he saw eight different men taken out of the prison and marched away to be shot.

During this same month that Mr. A. was in prison, there were six men shot that had been confined in a separate prison than the one he occupied, making 14 at that station, (Tupello) in a month. He said that the Federal prisoners remarked that they were shooting their own men faster than we could do it.

While Mr. A. was on his way back to our lines, he had the opportunity to learn the feelings of some that he met, and all seemed to feel that the reign of Davis & Co. was a reign of terror from which all would gladly escape if they knew in what manner it was to be surely and securely done.

The news Mr. Aughey brings to his neighbors, who have remained at home, and are inside our lines, is not very pleasing to them. They learn through him that they are many of them threatened with being shot on sight for their reported or supposed acts of friendship toward us.

I am satisfied that Mr. A's statements are entirely reliable. As to his being a spy, there is no truth to it; his only real crime against the southern conspiracy, is offering northern gold for southern cotton, for which he would undoubtedly suffer death had he not been fortunate enough to escape. When they took Mr. Aughey, they were so delighted that they did not think to look for his gold, and before Mr. Secesh returned the next day to search for it, Mrs. A had brought \$5,000 which he had within our lines, proving that she, though a southern lady, was a true wife.

I believe this regiment is composed of as kindly hearted men as can be found, but all are rejoicing that Congress has passed an act that is liable to hurt rebels. All eyes seem to be open to the fact, that men who will consummate such acts of tyranny, as the rebels have done, can be brought to their senses only by severe measures.

Yours, Scalpel.

*EG, 8-13-1862*

THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

The health of the boys of the 36<sup>th</sup> continues good. The hospital is mostly empty. Taking good care of themselves, these veterans stand the hot weather like salamanders. One advantage of entering an old regiment is the care that is taken of

the health, by which a recruit escapes many of the dangers and discomforts of camp life.

In August, General Asboth was relieved as division commander and replaced by General Thomas Granger. Granger proved unpopular with the men because he was a strict, and at times sadistic, disciplinarian. They were grateful when he, in turn, was soon relieved by Philip Henry Sheridan.

Sheridan was a little Irishman from Ohio with slanted Eyes, short legs, and long, ape - like arms. He didn't look much like a soldier. But he would become one of the great heroes of the war; and a special bond of affection would develop between him and the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois.

*AB, 8-14-1862*

Rienzi, Miss. Aug. 6, '62

If there is any adjective more expressive than another, you are at liberty to use it in relation to the weather in this section of Dixie. I have not seen a thermometer since I have been here, but should judge it should stand at least *fifteen hundred* in the coolest shade that can be found. The health of the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment is extraordinary good, considering the climate and season of the year. There are no sick men in the hospital and very few men excused from duty in the companies. Our Commander Gen. Asboth, has gone to Washington, and General Granger has taken his place. He has commenced right, using soldiers and shoulder straps exactly alike. He has issued orders to arrest every officer found absent from his post while on duty, thus checking the growing evil.

We had a grand review yesterday of all the troops at his post by General Rosencrans. Everyone acknowledged our regiment turned out the most men and made the best appearance of any in the command.

Lieut. Col. Joslyn left for home on Sunday on a sick leave. He and Maj. Barry have both tendered their resignations, but they have not as yet been accepted.

Companies B and C are about a mile from here, guarding a battery. We see them often. The two cavalry companies are not with us. Company A is at headquarters, near Corinth, and company B is at Jacinto. The regiment has a great

deal of duty to do in the way of picketing, grand guard, etc., so there is no danger of our getting rusty from idleness. You must excuse me from writing a long letter, as the hot weather melts all my ideas.

Yours, Bill.

AB, 8-21-1862

### LETTER FROM THE ARMY

Camp Rienzi, Miss., Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1862

We feel better – the arrival of the papers yesterday with the announcement that government had decided to resort to drafting to fill the old and new regiments, immediately gave us great joy. We now begin to think that the world will move, and that there is something going to be done. We now begin to hope that we shall have the pleasure, before a great while, of shaking hands with some of our northern cowardly friends in camp.. That will just be good enough for us. We shall certainly be ready and willing to give them the grip fraternally. We have all had the blues for months – we have repeatedly asked for help – all the answers that had reached us came in the shape of resolutions passed at reported “monster mass meetings,” all echoing the same ridiculous nonsense, advocated by old Lovejoy, and his class of politicians, *arm the niggers*.

Yesterday’s paper announces a resolution introduced by “Abe,” which is to be unanimously adopted, and says “Arm Lovejoy,” and the other northern cowards, and send them into the field immediately. The resolution pleased us and we all shouted bully for “Abe.” Why should we not have the blues? Had we not been in the field, worked hard and fought well, for nearly a year and a half? When we asked for help, had not the almost unanimous answer been, government must arm the negroes and put them into the field, and virtually make them the soldier’s equal! This caused us to reflect and when we did reflect that we had enlisted for three years, had served but half our time, and yet been reduced to the level, and equal of negroes, in the estimation of the north, we began to consider where they would class at the end of the three years. Certainly, at previous rates, they would reduce us to low for northern society. Such apprehensions naturally tended to make us blue, as we all had friends, if not families, residing there, whom we cherished and esteemed, and sorrowed to leave them reduced in society because we volunteered and risked our lives in camp and battle, in defense of our common

country. Perhaps you will say that I am stating the case too strong. Let me introduce a little testimony on the subject. Has there not been a standing call for volunteers for months past? Certainly there has. Again, have not most of the old regiments whose ranks have been thinned by sickness and battles, sent mustering officers among you months ago, asking you to volunteer and fill up the ranks? Did you do it? Please tell me how many you forwarded? Did not government offer you large bounties and thus try to buy you, body and soul, rather than degrade you in the world's eyes by drafting you? Did you respond? Or did you in turn hide behind your gold and silver by offering additional and ridiculous amounts to buy boys and, men who were willing to sell themselves for the amounts to take your places? This I suppose you call patriotism. Well I do not know but what it is patriotic to call the Supervisors and Common Councils together and have them levy taxes upon all the taxable property in the counties, and towns alike – that of the soldiers in the field, who receive of ask no bounties, and that of the poor widow, whose husband fell in battle, all at the same rates. *I do not see it in that way.* Do you propose to donate this money to government? *Not at All!* You propose to use it to buy boys with to fill places in the ranks that ought to have been filled long since by yourselves and cowardly sons. It is either cowardice, or you consider the situation of a soldier degrading. *I charge this upon you gentlemen,* please select your own horn of the dilemma. I have read various resolutions introduced by Elder Joslyn, many of them replete with patriotism, also an article in his paper last week against resigning, all of which have pleased me. The Elder is sharp and sound on the goose, besides having quite a reputation as a Preacher. There are many vacancies in the positions of Chaplains – why does not the Elder enlist and try the thing on? Certainly the boy's morale are suffering for want of preaching, and there is not the least danger for Chaplains in the army. Will the Elder enlist? I am fully aware that there are many noble and patriotic men who have and are volunteering in Aurora and Kane County. To all such, we will give you the right hand of fellowship, although you seem a little late. To those who are drafted, we say, come on, you are conscripts, when you arrive, and get into a tight place, and ask for help, we shall certainly reply Lovejoy and Joslyn like, "*arm the negroes*" – *won't you?*

The health of the troops in this division and vicinity, remain good. There has been but one death in the Second Brigade. (four regiments) during the past month. We have one man in our regimental hospital, and nine excused from duty today. Capt. Miller and his Tigers are still out in advance protecting the frontier. If all the resignations are accepted, the Captain will have an upward tendency – how high, time and his specific gravity (an article that the Miller family abound in,) will determine. Col. Joslyn was compelled to go north on account of ill health. I think it doubtful if he ever returns to the 36<sup>th</sup>. He and Major Barry, Capt. Joslyn

and Dr. Hawley have tendered their resignations. The weather is very hot – the thermometer being above hundred for several days. Plenty of good government rations with all the ripe secesh apples that we can consume. Green corn and ripe peaches are all in fair supply and anxious demand. No movement of troops or exploits of importance have taken place since my last.

Respectfully Yours,

Tattle Tale:

**Attached to the 37<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 11<sup>th</sup> Division, Army of the Ohio, until October,  
1862**

*EG, 9-3-1862*

**ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS**

*List of promotions and new commissions issued to Illinois regiments, for the month  
ending Saturday, Aug. 23, 1862*

**THIRTY – SIXTH INFANTRY**

First Lieut. George D. Sherman, to be Captain, June 8, 1862, vice Baldwin resigned.

First Lieut. Albert M. Hobbs, to be Captain, July 16, 1862, vice Fish resigned.

Second Lieut. William H. Clark, to be First Lieut. July 16, 1862, vice Hobbs promoted.

Second Lieut. George G. Biddolph, to be First Lieut., July 14, 1862, vice Stonax resigned

Second Lieut, Charles F. Dike, to be First Lieut., July 14, 1862, vice Sellers resigned.

Sanford H. Wakeman, to be First Lieut., June 8, 1862, vice Sherman, promoted.

George S. Bartlett, to be Second Lieut., July 16, 1862, vice Clark, promoted.

Loren L. Olsen, to be Second Lieut., July 14, 1862, vice Biddolph, promoted.

Theodore L. Griffin, to be Second Lieut., July 14, 1862, vice, Dike,

promotion.

John Van Pelt, to be Quartermaster, March 3, 1862, vice, Buck, resigned.

### DRAGOONS – ATTACHED TO 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT

First Lieut., Samuel B. Sherer, Co. A., to be Captain of Co. B, July 9, 1862, vice Smith, cashiered.

Second Lieut., George A. Willis, to be First Lieut., vice Sherer, promoted.

Edward M. Barnard, to be Second Lieut., Co. B, vice Padelford, resigned.

### **Moved to Covington, Kentucky, thence to Louisville, September 6 -19, 1862**

Kentucky was now being threatened by Confederate General Braxton Bragg and his gray clad Army of Tennessee. So, the regiment was shipped to Louisville. It was an uneventful trip except for company G, which lost its famous mascot, "Jack." Part mastiff and part bulldog, Jack had been wounded at Pea Ridge. On the way to Louisville, he scampered off the troop ship and drowned.

Crossing over to Cincinnati on September 11<sup>th</sup>, the Fox River Regiment went through a period of intense training in preparation for the Kentucky campaign. It was here that Nicholas Greusel, barking orders in his thick German accent, acquired his reputation as "the man with the loudest voice in the Union Army."

*WS, 9-3-1862*

Lt. Col. Joslyn at the Court House on Monday Evening. – Lt. Col. E. S. Joslyn of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Reg't., home on sick leave of absence, spoke at the Court House in this place, on Monday evening last, his main object being, as he said, to induce men to enlist in a battery now being raised by G. W. Renwick, Esq., of Elgin. The Court House was densely crowded to hear the orator, and express their satisfaction at the eloquent yet disconnected remarks of the speaker, in the most emphatic manner. Everyone who knows "Ed." Joslyn, knows what a whole souled man he is, and it is only necessary for us to say that the speech on Monday evening was characteristic of the man, and our readers know exactly what kind of speech it was. The Col.

took strong ground for the Union, at all hazards and at any event; and would strike down every man, every party, every institution, that stood in the way of reconstruction. After the close of Mr. Joslyn's remarks, Neil Donnelly, Esq., made a few remarks, and at a late hour the meeting broke up. In its appropriate column, will be found Mr. Renwick's advertisement for men to fill up his battery. It is a preferred branch of the service, and each volunteer gets sixty dollars bounty from Kane County, in addition to the Government bounty. We hope he will get a number of men from this county. The muster roll for this place is in the hands of Mr. W. W. Paine.

WS, 9-3-1862

FROM CAPT. JOSLYN'S COMPANY

Rienzi, Fishamingo Co., Miss.,  
Tuesday, Aug. 19, 1862.

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL :

The Sentinel once in a while comes to hand, and we seldom see anything from the 36<sup>th</sup>; so thinking a few lines concerning our regiment might be of interest to yourselves and the readers of the Sentinel, I avail myself of this opportunity.

I presume ere this you have heard of the discharge of your correspondent H. H. Hayden. He has been ailing a long time and I feel he will never permanently regain his health. We regretted he should leave us under such circumstances, if at all.

There have been many changes in our regiment of late by several officers resigning. Col. Greusel is commanding this brigade at present. Lieut. Col. Joslyn and Major Barry are out of command, the former at home, and the latter out of health; consequently Captain Pierce has been in command, but Captain Miller has rejoined the regiment and will probably take command.

The health of the regiment has never been better, and the troops in general at this post are healthy. Many who have been home sick are returning; not a few, I am sorry to say, still unable to do duty yet. Samuel Foster, company H., returned yesterday. We are having quite an easy time for us, but we are on guard every

other night. Some changes are being made that look like action again soon; the 47<sup>th</sup> have left here for Alabama, where I understand quite a force is concentrated.

I see the boys of the 15<sup>th</sup> have taken advantage of the late order and supplied themselves with cooks. I think it a good plan, and wish our regiment would profit by the example.

Since General Granger has been in command the order has been strictly against confiscation; even apples and roasting ears, the taking of which has cost many a poor fellow a severe punishment, but these rarities must come, orders to the contrary notwithstanding. One of our boys detailed at headquarters, where they tie men up by their thumbs for no other offence than taking a few apples from these secesh who have thousands, boasted to the man that does his dirty work that they would be smart if they caught any of the 36<sup>th</sup> boys. The executioner looked wise but said nothing. Not many days after he came running into the office, where our friend was busy at his desk, exulting over the prospect of having caught a 36<sup>th</sup> soger; our friend made a few inquiries then turned to the door to see if they (there being two), were any whom he knew, but imagine his delight on reaching the door to see them on double quick fifty rods off, having managed to cut the ropes while the guard's back was turned. The fellow acknowledged himself outdone, and I think will keep mum in future.

The weather has been 108 above zero, but is cooler now, so it is very comfortable sleeping. Everything is quiet here, no secesh making their appearance. The paymaster is here and we are in hopes to get a few more greenbacks. But this is already too lengthy, and the drum beats for guard, and I must go.

W. B.

WS, 9-3-1862

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REG'T

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL :

We have a few boys from our town in Captain Joslyn's company, belonging to the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, who have seen some service in Missouri, in Arkansas (they were at Pea Ridge), and are now at Rienzi, Miss. I

was favored with the reading of one of their letters home, and to let it be known how faithfully some of our Generals disregard the nation's interest, and violate the law of Congress, I propose to send you an extract. It is time the thistles were weeded out. But here is what one of the boys says: -- "General Asboth has gone home on leave of absence and General Granger takes his place until his return. This Gen. Granger, is heartily hated in this division of our army. He is one of that kind of Generals who are so very kind to our sworn enemies that he must have a guard for every cornfield, and a patrol guard to keep the boys from going out and getting the ripe fruit which in some places lies rotting on the ground. Now I suppose he thinks it better for the secesh to bring in their fruit and sell it to us for twice what it is worth and then carry out information to the rebels. The patrols have instructions to bring in all the boys they find outside our picket line. The other day some of them took up some of the 44<sup>th</sup> Regiment Illinois Volunteers and brought them in, took them up before General Granger, and that worthy saw fit to say they must be tied up for six hours in the sun. One of them, a sergeant, was tied up by the thumbs for six hours, and after they took him down the poor fellow did not live but a few hours. Thus you see that this young man who for one year had faced the hardships and privations of camp life, who had marched hundreds of miles and faced the hostile foe in the deadly conflict, who had left home and comforts, and dear, dear friends because Southern demons have seen fit to bring civil war on the country, and merely because the young man had taken some of the overplus of these, his deadly enemy's property, he has lost his life. Military law is necessarily strict, but this I call cruel murder. It is not to be supposed that the General thought this would kill the man, but I think that the occasion did not call for any such punishment. At any rate, if he wants to live long, he better not tie up any of the 36<sup>th</sup>."

S. A.

*EG, 9-10-1862*

#### CHAPLAIN FOR THE 36<sup>th</sup>

With profound pleasure we learn that the Rev. Wm. M. Haigh, of Bristol, has received the appointment of Chaplain to the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Ill. Volunteers. He is in the highest sense a Christian gentleman, and will do good service in that favorite regiment.

AB, 9-18-1862

LETTER FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

Covington, Ky., Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1862

Dear Beacon: -- *The 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment has changed its base of operations !* We are now resting quietly and securely on the south bank of the Ohio. We left Rienzi, Miss. on Saturday morning, and arrived at Cincinnati yesterday morning. We came by railroad from Corinth to Columbus, by river from there to Cairo, and by rail from Cairo to Cincinnati. We had a hurried but pleasant trip. Our passage through Indiana was a perfect ovation. The Indianians met us at the state line by thousands, and gave us such welcome as convinced us that their hearts are in the right places and that they are fully determined that this wicked rebellion shall be put down. They just filled our cars with everything nice to eat, and even as late as nine and ten o'clock at night the numerous stations along the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad are crowded with people eager and anxious to do something for us. This seemed very strange to us who had spent the past year in the midst of the wilds of Missouri and Arkansas. We immediately and unanimously voted all Indianians Christians.

We arrived at Cincinnati about 3 o'clock in the morning, and at the early hour found a fine and plentiful breakfast waiting us at the market, with nice and clean looking ladies to wait on the table. This was a damper on the boys and reminded them of their homes, mothers and sisters. They marched up to the table and stood there like statues until the ladies announced everything ready when they partook of their meal as quietly and orderly as an orthodox Sabbath School. After eating freely, the regiment crossed the Ohio river on a pontoon bridge, and took their present position in Covington, Kentucky, rumor said, near Kirby Smith and his rebels. We have seen or heard nothing of them yet. We are waiting anxiously for a formal introduction. We have four large regiments of the old Pea Ridge boys here, who will be most happy to make Kirby's acquaintance. We have plenty of help for any emergency. The Ohioans are flocking in by thousands with their shot guns, squirrel rifles and farmer uniforms, making a motly and laughable looking a crowd as Price's squad of Missourians. Ohio is awake and bound to do her duty. Old white headed men with their old, long, rusty rifles, are rushing by the hundreds to fill the front ranks and the rifle pits. These old men have blood in their eye and will certainly hurt some of the rebels if they ever get their old rifles sighted on them.

General Greusel's Brigade has been increased by the addition of the 24<sup>th</sup> regiment of Wisconsin Volunteers, and the promise of the celebrated Illinois

Railroad Regiment. Things in the Brigade are working finely. The authorities here were not slow in finding out the "Old Man's" abilities, and I assure you they have kept him busy in locating and arranging the new regiments. He seems very happy in his new field of operations, and fully determined to make things move. Captain Miller is in command of the regiment, doing its duties with promptness and becoming modesty. The Captain is one of the most efficient officers in the regiment, besides being a general favorite with all the officers and men. We were compelled to leave our two Cavalry Companies in Alabama, General Wright promised General Greusel that they shall be called to join the regiment immediately. We are lonesome and unhappy without our cavalry.

The boys in the regiment are all well and eager for a fight. We left two men in the hospital at Cairo from the entire regiment. We have no deaths this long time. Our boys know how to soldier and take care of themselves.

I have the honor to be your

Tattle Tale.

*WS, 9-24-1862*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REG'T  
FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT

Camp near Covington, Kentucky.,  
Sept. 18, 1862.

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL :

Thinking the changes lately made by the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment would be of interest to the readers of the Sentinel, I resort to my pen to inform you of their whereabouts, etc.

On the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> we received orders to be ready to march at 4 o'clock on the following morning. The dawn found us with our effects slung upon our backs, ready for a march; and in company with the 44<sup>th</sup> Illinois and 2<sup>nd</sup> Iowa, we turned our backs upon the old camp at Rienzi. I understand Rienzi is evacuated, but know it only by report. We remained in Corinth over night, but had little time or opportunity to look over the fortifications. We passed one very strong fort, and others which are yet incomplete. We left Corinth on the 7<sup>th</sup> for Columbus, which place we reached in safety, distant 148 miles. While our extra baggage was being transferred to the Tecumseh, I took a trip to the fort where Pillow spent so much time and all his ingenuity to resist the Federal arms. His great chain, four anchors weighing 7860 pounds each, and fifteen or twenty torpedoes, were among the most notable secesh relics. A few cannon were

dismounted, and I saw the remains of a few which were blown up.

On our way up the river we passed seven boatloads of secesh, on their way to Vicksburg. The boys were eager to set their feet on free soil once more, it being nearly a year since we left Aurora for the seat of war. It was quite dark before we left the boat, but the boys soon found means to supply themselves with a few extras. It was past midnight before we went on board the cars, and daylight before we left town.

You know not how it cheers a soldier to meet with sympathizing friends. Hats flew off more than once as we cheered the crowds assembled at the various stations to bid us God speed. We changed cars at the junction of the Central with the Mississippi and Ohio Railroad, five miles north of Centralia, and were soon on the way to Cincinnati.

We passed the station where the 80<sup>th</sup> Illinois were wrecked, when seven were killed and thirty to forty wounded. At Seymour we were met by the ladies, who were laden with every luxury which the land produced; and imagine, if you can, the scene that followed; the charge was general, not on secesh, but on pies and cakes, peaches and everything that the heart could wish. Think you not we were grateful for such treatment? No tongue can tell, no pen describe our gratitude.

As we were about to leave Col. Greusel mounted a car and spoke in substance as follows:

“Ladies and Gentlemen of Seymour, I am glad you have treated the boys. These are the boys who fought the battle of Pea Ridge. After spending the winter in an enemy’s country, many times almost deprived of sufficient to sustain life, worn out by hardships beyond that of any army in the service, they met and vanquished the foe. We come among you, not to revel in luxury, but only to take the field again in another department, and we need sympathy. You can judge how well we appreciate your demonstrations.” After a few preliminary remarks he again thanked them for the manner in which they had welcomed us. The car whistle blew, three cheers were proposed, and such cheering and screaming would be hard to beat. Three cheers were given for the ladies of Seymour, three for the old flag, and cheer until the multitude was lost in the distance. We reached Cincinnati at 3 o’clock the next morning, where, notwithstanding the early hour, a good and substantial meal was in readiness for us.

We are not permanently in camp yet. We hear many reports about the secesh, but nothing reliable. I think they are on the retreat; but this is already too lengthy. No Sentinel received yet.

Yours, W.

*AB, 10-9-1862*

ARMY CORRESPONDENCE.

Battle Field, Near Iuka,  
September 20, 1862

Being a resident of your city and an eye witness to the recent battle near Iuka, I flatter myself a brief description from my pen would not be entirely uninteresting to all the readers of the Beacon.

On the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. Our company (Co. A. Cav., 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Reg.) received orders to march in the morning with three days rations in our haversacks from our camp, near Corinth in the direction of Iuka.

According to the appointed time all arrangements had been made, and although a drenching rain storm greeted us, the orders "to horse" was given and the march commenced.

During the day many troops were passed, all marching in the same direction. We knew it meant something.

The infantry, artillery and baggage wagons made but slow progress over the rough roads, and at night we encamped near the advance of the column. At three o'clock next morning, troops were on the move.

We were now given to understand we were marching to attack Sterling Price at Iuka. This news was received with demonstrations of joy. Cheer followed cheer, and as we advanced escorting Gen. Rosecrance, the greatest enthusiasm prevailed on all sides. To use the expressions of the troops, they were all "spiling for a fight." At three o'clock P.M. we came up with the rebel pickets and had a severe skirmish. After contesting the ground for some distance they fell back, which led us to believe they would make no other stand until safely entrenched behind their breastworks which surround the town. However, the greatest vigilance was observed by our officers, for we were in an enemy's country, surrounded by timber and underbrush, contending with a subtle and cunning foe, into whose snare we were liable to fall at any moment.

At 4 o'clock we came to a post in the road where the enemy had placed a

guide board which read "two miles to Iuka" when in reality we were within one mile and a half of town. They undoubtedly supposed we would advance unconcerned into a trap, which they were prepared to spring. But our Gen. knowing the geography of the country ordered a halt. At this time we were in the rear of the 5<sup>th</sup> Iowa regiment, which being in the advance was ordered to make a reconnoissance of the right hand road after deploying one company as skirmishers. Our company was also ordered to reconnoiter the left hand road as far as our daring Captain (Capt. Jenks) should deem prudent. It was rather a dangerous experiment, as common sense told us the enemy's lines could not be far distant. Their pickets had been driven in several miles back.

On either side, a dense and impenetrable underbrush lined the road. An underbrush capable of secreting an army of thousands, and which we did not much doubt did conceal a portion of Price's army. The supposition afterward proved true, for rebel prisoners stated we advanced forty rods inside their concealed lines, and we should have been totally annihilated had the considered one company of sufficient importance to expose their position. On we rode until we came to an open field, where the enemy could be plainly seen with the town of Iuka to the right, with its line of breastworks. Not wishing to expose his men needlessly, Capt. Jenks ordered his men to return to headquarters. At this period volley after volley of musketry could be heard on the right hand road. Notwithstanding the great precaution which had been taken the 5<sup>th</sup> Iowa had been drawn into ambush, and their ranks terribly thinned by the galling fire of the concealed rebels. Reinforcements were directly sent to their assistance and other troops took possession of the grounds along the left hand road. The engagement now became general—crash, crash, crash---minnie balls, grape, canister and bombs began to do the work of death. Old and experienced officers and soldiers say they never witnessed a battle more terrible for the number of troops engaged. The musketry firing was awful. The bravery of our troop never was surpassed upon any field. At one time the rebels charged upon and took in the face of a galling fire, one of our batteries, killing every horse and one hundred out of one hundred fifty men. But only a few moments elapsed before our brave troops retook and held it during the remainder of the battle.

The battle raged with great fury for nearly three hours, when the enemy fell back leaving us in possession of the field.

During the engagement John C. Goodwin, son of C. H. Goodwin, of your city, had his horse shot under him while in the thickest of the fray. At one time the two lines were so near each other that they would pull each other from their respective ranks, and engage in hand to hand conflict, where the best man won. That's what we call close quarters. We slept on our arms during the night, expecting a renewal of the engagement this morning. But Price has fled, and as I

write we are throwing shell among his rear guard, who skedaddle as though the d—l had kicked them behind.

It is impossible to ascertain a correct statement of casualties. Dead and dying are continually arriving at the hospital where I write this. Their groans are awful. Such is war. May God speed the day when we may return in peace to friends and loved ones. When our glorious flag may float in triumph over every inch of our territory, forts and public buildings—when the sounds of war may no longer be heard—when treason shall bang its head, and traitors meet the doom their conduct merits, and peace, glorious peace, united with liberty and equality shall shed its benign influence throughout the length and breadth of our once happy land.

Yours as ever,

Mack Finegan

*AB, 10-9-1862*

Louisville, Ky.,  
Sept. 25, 1862

Eds. Beacon; -- Once more I have the Pleasure to inform you that the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment has again changed its base of operations. After a weeks sojourn in Cincinnati, viewing the principal places of interest, and appropriating what loose things we needed, the boys tired, pronounced business dull, struck tents and sailed for Louisville by way of Seymoure, Indianapolis and Jeffersonville, Indiana, arriving at Louisville on Wednesday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, where we are now on exhibition.

This is a very interesting city at present, as a very large portion of Uncle Samuel's circus is giving daily entertainments to the delighted denizens of the town and vicinity. Many of them have been invited to take a hand in the play, and are now taking their first lessons in the use of *the shovel and de hoe*. Some of them are stupid fellows, and learn mighty slow. They are even behind Uncle Sam's hundred dollar fellows. But General Greusel's "still small voice," oft repeated, makes them dig, sweat and swear, while we old Pea Ridge Veterans sit back, laugh, and enjoy the joke. This army is a bully institution. I am ready, after a year's experience, to pronounce it a grand speculation. It has its ups and downs as well as all other theatres, while its actors are held individually responsible for their notes. The star actors are the most numerous here in exhibition at present, there being two varieties. We have the "lone star" and the "double star," all clean, slick, well fed looking men. I can not tell you much of them individually, as many

of them are of recent discovery, too recent to have cast any particular light upon either the movements or the results of movements in the department. This “starry” fraternity eat and drink principally at the Gault House. Several of the 36<sup>th</sup> boys who took dinner there yesterday, informed me that the proprietors are compelled to close their blinds in consequence of the large number and brilliancy of the “stars” on exhibition. To-morrow it is announced the very heavens and earth are to be illuminated in this vicinity, by the addition of two more “stars” to the grand galaxy – the two that have so long and dimly flickered upon the straps of the long lost Don Carlos Buell, *way down in Tennessee*.

We have had an exciting time here for several days past, in consequence of the daily announcement that Buell had attacked Bragg’s rear. This astonishing announcement created the most intense excitement throughout the city. Government stores, horses, mules, children and women were all hurried across the river in O’ Indiana. Time moved on, and great preparations were made, ditches dug, rifle pits built, and all made ready to receive Bragg. Eleven o’clock last evening arrived, and with it came Buell, but no Bragg. Today the excitement is intensified to ascertain what has become of Bragg? Buell is found but Bragg is lost !! The question now is, what has become of Bragg? Buell found his rear several days ago, and hung on to it, but lost Bragg !!!

Things are moving on quietly in the regiment. General Greusel is commanding three brigades –the first, third and fifth – all in General Sheridan’s division. The 89<sup>th</sup> regiment is here. A visit to them yesterday made me think of Aurora. About the first man I found in camp was Bully Brooks, sweeping the street. Bully is well and has his street clean and looking neat as Main Street, Aurora. Lieut. Watkins, Captain Kider and in fact all the boys, take to soldiering quite naturally. They are a fine looking regiment and will do good service if opportunity offers. We are in hopes to secure them for our brigade. Captain Miller still commands the regiment; Lieut. Campbell is on detached service with General Sheridan; Lieut. Walker is somewhere on recruiting service; and Peter Douglas is in command of company B. The regiment has changed very much since it left Camp Hammond, one year ago yesterday, a majority of the old officers having resigned and gone home, while others have been promoted. The regiment is in good health. Where we are to show next, I do not know; I will tell you when we get there.

Tattle Tale.

AB, 10-9-1862

Louisville, Ky.,  
September 22, 1862

Eds. Beacon; -- I suppose you have been so busy of late getting up new regiments on Fox River, and sending men to fill up regiments in Chicago and elsewhere, that you have forgotten all about the ragged old 36<sup>th</sup>. This is to inform you that "we still live." Since I last wrote you we have traveled from Rienzi to Cincinnati, and from there back to this place, and are now in good health and spirits, and are ready to do anything or go anywhere where we can find the enemies of the old flag we have marched under so long. We are in the army Corp of Major General Gordon Granger, in General Sheridan's division, with our "old man," Col. Greusel, commanding the brigade. Capt. Silas Miller is in command of the regiment. We left our two cavalry companies in Mississippi -- company A, Capt. Jenks, were acting as body guard to General Rosencrans. There are several of the new Illinois regiments here; the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 88<sup>th</sup> are in our brigade. I was over to the camp of the 89<sup>th</sup> or R.R. Regiment, yesterday afternoon, but found that the boys had marched out about six miles the day before. I saw several of the Fox River boys. Yesterday I saw the paroled prisoners who were captured at Mumfordsville.

From what I have seen of it, Louisville is a rather rough place. I do not like it as well as I do Cincinnati, which is the best city we have been in yet. As soon as we can get transportation we will probably take the field, and if we can't close out the job which Uncle Abe has sent us to do before next spring, it will be curious.

Bill.

AB, 10-9-1862

Messrs. Editors : The friends of the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment will doubtless be glad to learn of my success in procuring funds for the purchasing of reading matter. I have received from

Aurora by Rev. Mr. Estee.....	\$1.00
Newark.....	7.00
Lisbon.....	7.13
Elgin.....	8.83
Bristol.....	8.45

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\$40.91

Besides the above I have received several parcels of books and tracts.  
For all these, and for the kind co-operation of those who have aided in the  
work, I not only, but I doubt not the whole regiment, will give hearty thanks.

Yours, &c.,

William M. Haigh.

**The Regiment is Attached to the 37<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 11<sup>th</sup> Division, 3<sup>Rd</sup> Corps, Army  
of Ohio until November, 1862**

*EG, 10-15-1862*

NOW IS THE TIME !

GREAT BATTLES

Have been fought in Miss. and Kentucky. Illinois Soldiers have again covered  
themselves all over with glory. Our own 52<sup>nd</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> have again charged the  
enemy and routed him. The sick and wounded need help. The ladies are anxious  
to send hospital stores to them. To do this they must have money. To raise money  
they give an

EXCURSION TO CHICAGO

Buy a Ticket whether you go or not.

**Pursuit of Bragg into Kentucky, October 1-16, 1862**

The Kentucky autumn was hot and dry. The marching men kicked up great clouds  
of dust, and thirst burnt their throats. Bragg occupied the State Capital of  
Frankfort briefly, but abandoned it when informed that the Yankees were on their

way to contest his possession of that prize. The two armies stumbled across each other blindly on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October near Perryville because they were both looking for water, and a little trickle nearby called Doctor's Creek was the best that they could find.

*WS, 10-15-1862*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT  
FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT

Pitchfork Run, Washington Co., Ky.,  
October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1862

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL :

Since my last, time has been well occupied by us. We were called to Louisville, report said to guard it against Bragg and his horde of copperheads; but we were not concerned, on the contrary, we hoped they would attack us.

The opinion now is, that they came for recruits and subsistence, never thinking they could capture the city.

The Army of Ohio has been organized, and we are again in pursuit of the enemy. They were in force at Bardstown, eight miles to our rear, but left before we reached there. A skirmish took place between the enemy's rear guard and our advance. Several persons were taken on both sides, and amongst those we took were two Captains.

I hear the cannon again today. We are the rear guard, and I take advantage of the opportunity to write, that you may know our whereabouts.

Hoping that I may have occasion to record another great victory in my next, I remain, in great haste,

Yours, etc., W.

*WS, 10-15-1862*

THE WOODSTOCK RIFLES IN THE BATTLE AT PERRYVILLE, KY.

We are indebted to Mr. H. Benson for the following letter from his son, written on the battlefield at Perryville, Ky., last Friday.

In camp on battlefield,  
Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1862

Dear friends : -- I doubt not, ere this, you have heard of the terrible battle which we had day before yesterday. It was terrible indeed. No pen or pencil can picture it. Our regiment never experienced anything like its equal before. But few of the 36<sup>th</sup> were killed, but quite a number were wounded, Wallace among the rest. He is not seriously hurt, was struck with a musket ball in the left leg, about 8 or ten inches from the body, the ball glancing and coming out of itself, and I presume he will get a furlough and come home after a little. Thode Griffin is also wounded. Nine of our company were struck, none seriously. I presume you will get all the particulars before you get this. I have not time to write much. I stood under heavy artillery and musketry fire for about three hours at one time, and didn't get a scratch. Now let me tell you that we thrashed the miserable rebels severely. I don't know what the name of the battle is. None others that you know are hurt.

I have no more time now, for I am going up to see Wallace. Don't worry about Wallace, he will be alright soon.

We cleaned old Bragg out right.

In haste, Orren

*AB, 10-16-1862*

Company A Cavalry, --- From Corinth we learn that Capt. Jenks and his company were actively engaged during the fight there, and accompanied Gen. Rosecrans as his escort in the pursuit. Three of the company were wounded slightly, Squires' brother of George is the only name reported.

### **Battle of Perryville, Kentucky, October 8, 1862**

The 36<sup>th</sup> occupied the center of Sheridan's division as it confronted the enemy opposite on Chaplains Hills. In doing so it came up against the Confederate corps of General William J. Hardee, the same General Hardee whose *Manual of Infantry Tactics* had been used by Greusel when drilling his regiment from Camp Hammond to Cincinnati. The students stood up well against their master. The men counted the battle flags of six rebel regiments rolling toward them. They later discovered that Pat Cleburne, Hardee's favorite field commander, personally led the attack. The 36<sup>th</sup> would meet Cleburne again before the war was over.

Greusel was in charge of the overall tactical situation, directing Yankee artillery nearby, as well as the 36<sup>th</sup>. Silas Miller waited for the enemy to approach a snake

rail fence before he ordered a resounding volley. Cleburne's men were cut down at point blank range, toppling in ghastly profusion, dead and wounded over the fence. For two hours that afternoon, the Fox River Regiment held the center of Sheridan's division against the cream of the Army of Tennessee.

Private William Galloway from Morris, Illinois was known for his Irish wit. To relieve the tension, he stood in the firing line making wise cracks about the poor quality of army victuals. Another soldier nearby remarked that he might end up eating enemy bullets. As he opened his mouth to make a typically clever retort, a Confederate minnie ball ripped into it, blasting out ten teeth.

When the men ran low on ammunition, the Adjutant was sent to the rear. But the mission was delayed by the fact that the civilian teamster or "mule wacker" did not want to get too near the fighting having moved his wagon. The Adjutant ordered him back at gun point.

But, by that time, Miller was preparing to have his men counter attack with the bayonet. The bayonet charge never came, for the rebels faded from the field and the 36<sup>th</sup> was finally relieved by the 88<sup>th</sup> Illinois and the 24<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin, as the battle of Perryville drew to a close.

Perryville convinced Braxton Bragg to call a halt to his invasion. It saved Kentucky for the Union, as Pea Ridge had saved Missouri.

*EG, 10-15-1862*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

Camp on Battlefield, Oct. 10, 1862

Dear Parents: --

Once more I am happy to inform you of George's and my welfare, and especially after the late hard fought battle, I am thankful and happy to say we came out all right.

I have a chance to send this by a citizen from Newark, and have time to write but little.

We left Louisville Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, and after seven days marching in a circuitous route we reached here last Tuesday night about 9 o'clock p.m., I mean the other side of the battlefield. We went into camp, but were not allowed to strike a fire or talk loud, for we were close to the enemy; our company and company D were ordered out as skirmishers, advanced about a half mile and laid behind the fence till about 12 o'clock, then we were ordered back and marched about a mile and a half north, where we laid down and slept an hour or two on the ground without blankets, when we were ordered up and in line; just at that time *crack* went the

rifles among the skirmishers, which lasted a short time, but was kept up more or less all day. We maneuvered around all day till 3 o'clock p.m., when the order came in great haste that they were flanking us; we fell back about eighty rods to a good position, and waited their movements, but we had not long to wait before we saw them planting a battery on the hill nearly a mile in advance of us. They soon opened on us but to no purpose, their shots could not reach us; they then advanced a portion of cavalry to their right, and some infantry to the left closing in, in front of us about fifty rods off. We were told they were coming and ordered to double column at half distance, ready to receive the cavalry, but at that time the artillery threw a shell amongst them and scattered them in all directions.

We were then ordered into line again, when the infantry on our side opened fire on them; the rebels were behind the fence, and waved their flag in defiance at us, then fastened it to the fence and laid down and fired away at us; for three fourths of a hour it was a continual roar of musketry and cannon, and the balls flew thick and fast I tell you. Our regiment was then ordered back over the ridge of the hill, for we were on the side facing them and the battery on the ridge, to get a new supply of ammunition, and fell back under a galling fire in good order; at the same time General Mitchell's division came up to the right of us and fired into them which drove them from the field in great haste.

We then saw that our men were being driven on the left, and the rebels charging after them, when our artillery was ordered to give them a cross fire, which checked their progress most dreadful quick I tell you. At the same time there were reinforcements sent to our men, Davis' Division having just come up. It was now after sun down and our artillery played on them from three different points, and the infantry still fighting them on the left. A more *beautiful* sight than this, I never saw; we could see every flash of the cannons, and the red streak of the shell as it passed through the air with lightening velocity, and the flash of the infantry guns; there is no use of my trying to describe it for I or anyone else cannot do justice to it. Well we of course began to enquire before this, who was wounded or killed; we soon learned that we had lost one killed, and seven wounded. It was a sorrowful thing to hear, but it could not be expected otherwise.

Patrick Gibbons was killed on the ground with a ball through his left breast; Albert Andrews, wounded very bad, a ball through the lungs; not expected to live. Timothy Ring badly wounded, ball through the back, and one hit him some other place, I know not where; he is not expected to live, he is from Barrington, I believe. P. G. is from Dundee; A. A. is the son of the nurseryman north of Elgin. Patrick Brannan, from Dundee, is slightly wounded; Henry Howe, from Crystal Lake had his two fore fingers shot off. Thomas Stanton from Dundee, a slight wound in the arm; Alex Robinson a very slight wound in the arm, and brother George a slight bruise on the cheek done by a bayonet, shot off from a fellows gun

who stood in front of him; there was a ball struck it and snapped it off and broke it in several pieces, one large one struck George, and I looked to see if it had hurt him, but was glad to see that it had not much; it is all right now. A few of the smaller pieces hit Alex Lynd, but done him no injury.

Our regiment lost in killed, 8 and wounded 57. 7 of our officers were wounded but none killed; the Col. had his horse shot under him.

Sanford Wakeman was detailed to stay at Louisville with six others of our company, so was not in the fight. Capt. Sherman did nobly, and came out all right. The boys all did honor to themselves and the 36<sup>th</sup> too.

Bent had a ball pass between his ramrod and gun as he was loading it, but done him no damage, it opened his eyes a little. I didn't receive a scratch, but the balls struck some of them within six inches of me. I cannot tell you the particulars of the battle, but you will see that in the papers soon.

There are about three hundred killed and wounded laying within twenty rods of us, and I tell you they are a gritty crowd. They say they will whip us and will fight to the last but what they will do it.

They say they have fell back about thirty miles and are there fortifying. Price, Breckinridge and Bragg are going to concentrate there and give us a hard fight, so they say. General Wallace is coming from Covington with a hundred thousand men, and I guess Grant will follow up Price. The old Col. says the 36<sup>th</sup> has won many honors in this battle, we were in the thickest of it.

Leroy S. Salisbury.

*AB, 10-23-1862*

LIST OF KILLED AND WOUNDED OF THE 36<sup>TH</sup> ILL. VOL. IN THE BATTLE  
OF PERRYVILLE, KY., OCT. 8, 1862.

KILLED

Patrick Gibbons, Co. A; Nelson L. Nelson, Co. K; Chas. Seymour, Co. D; Wm. L. Pyle, Co. D; Harrison Skinner, or Harrison S. Kinner, cook; Wm. P. Giles, Co. K; John H. Underwood, Co. K; Henry Reita, Co. B; Wm. Jackson, Co. L; H. Colman, Co. H; Earnest Ansorge, Co. B; John F. Henderson, Co. C, -- 19

WOUNDED

James Moffatt, wounded in abdomen, since dead; Edward Kapple, Co. H, left lung, mortally; Albert Andrews, Co. A, left lung, since dead; Louis Bowen, Co. I, left thigh; Patrick Bramen, Co. A, left arm; Corp. Terrance Johnson, Co. F, right leg; Wallace Benson, Co. H, left hip; Edward Clark, Co. K, hip and groin, mortally; James Hirsch, Co. D, right knee, severely; E. Strait, Co. F, both knees, severely; Wm. Coultrip, Co. F, left arm and left hip; H. Howe, Co. A, right hand; John Fyfe, Co. B, through the neck; Milton Cornell, Co. E, left shoulder; Corp. John Faunesteil, Co. E, neck; E. W. Pratt, Co. K, left arm; Erastus Beecher, Co. E, right ankle; Benedict Staufley, Co. I, right thigh, fractured; Corp. Henry E. Allen, Co. K, left ankle; Abraham Long, Co. K, left arm; Peter Bennett, Co. K, left leg; J. I. Davis, Co. c, left leg; Thomas Shaw, Co. D, groin, mortally; Joseph Saunders, Co. G, abdomen; John Murley, Co. D left hand; Fred Schulenberg, Co. I, left shoulder; D. Roberts, Co. B, through the face; Chas. H. Chandler, Co. G, right leg, severely; Wm. Mossmann, Co. F, face slightly; S. L. Smith, Co. F, knee, do; Alex Robinson, Co. A, arm, do; Dahl P. Baldwin, Co. C, shot through the ear; Harry Montgomery, Co. H, left arm, slightly; Jerome Ford, Co. H, abdomen, do; David Warrick, Co. H, leg, do; James Harroll, Co. E, face, do; Geo. W Lanigan, Co. E, hand, do; Geo. Merrill, Co. E, left side, do; Augustus Kasten, Co. E, breast, do; Ralph Miller, Co. C, left lung, mortally; Eugiene Benoit, Co. E, left shoulder, dead; Timothy Ring, Co. A, right shoulder and lung, mortally; John C. Donald, Co. B, right side severely; --- Ward, Co. E, right hand; Clinton Lloyd, Co. D, left hand, slightly; N. Hursh, Co. I, left hand; Wm. Galloway, Co. G, shoulder and chin; Henry O. Murray, Co. H, right wrist; Lieut. Morris Biggs, Co. H, left shoulder; Lieut Joseph C. Thompson, Co. D, right side, dangerously; Lieut. David E. Shaw, Co. I, left ankle; Lieut Wm. H. Clark, Co. E, left arm; Capt. A. C. Holden, Co. K, right arm; Capt. Geo. Parker, Co. D, left shoulder; Capt. Griffen, Co. H, both legs, --55.

EG, 10-29-1862

COL. E. S. JOSLYN

The gentleman received notice three days since that his resignation had *not been accepted*, whereupon he arranged matters and started for his regiment, now in camp at Crab Orchard, Kentucky. His health seems firmly restored, and everybody feels that he ought to be in the army, where his military skill and experience can be of service to his country. The soldiers of the 36<sup>th</sup> will be wild with joy when they

see *Ed.* among them again.

*AB, 11-6-1862*

### LETTER FROM THE ARMY.

Headquarters, 37<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 11<sup>th</sup> Div.  
On the Battlefield, Oct. 10, 1862

Lieut. Geo. Lee, A. A. A. Gen'l—Sir: I have the honor to report the action of the several regiments and batteries under my command, during the hard contested battle of the 8<sup>th</sup> of October.

Immediately after receiving your order on the 7<sup>th</sup> to report myself as general office of the day, and three regiments for picket, to Gen. Fry, Grand General Officer of the day, I started with the 36<sup>th</sup> and 86<sup>th</sup> regiments Ill. Vols. Leaving the 2<sup>nd</sup> Missouri regiment to picket the right of the command under Lieut. Col. Leebold, an assistant general officer of the day. After reporting to General Fry I was informed that it was absolutely necessary to take and hold two hills on which the enemy had their pickets, and to hold them at all hazards. Finding the enemy in strong force on the hills we jointly concluded to add a whole brigade and one battery to our force. While this brigade was getting ready, I advanced the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment and took possession of the first hill, driving the enemy's pickets across the Danville road on the second hill. I also deployed the 86<sup>th</sup> Illinois Vols. on the left of the Danville Road, to hold the enemy in check, and to guard against a flank movement after taking the first hill.

Where we took position with Battery I, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ill., Capt. Burnett, I deployed three companies of the 36<sup>th</sup> to the right of the hill, to guard against a flank movement, in which position you found me on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup>. Colonel McCook came up with the 36<sup>th</sup> Brigade, and took possession of the second hill, after a sharp fight of half an hour. By your order I kept the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment in line of battle in rear of Burnett's battery until 12 o'clock m, of the 8<sup>th</sup>, when I received your order to bring them forward to support Capt. Hiscox's battery on the second hill. You also ordered me to bring up the balance of my brigade, which arrived on the ground at 1 ½ p. m. By your order the 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan regiment, Col. A. A. Stevens, took position in the rear of the battery on the second hill for support. It was the section that made such havoc amongst the enemy on our extreme left wing – where Gen. McCook was engaged – driving a battery of the enemy back in the woods in great confusion, whereby (as I have since learned by a rebel surgeon left in charge of the wounded.) they lost over 430 killed and wounded. At one

o'clock, the enemy coming up in strong force, we retired our lines back on the hills in front of the batteries. By your order I advanced the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment 200 yards to the front of the battery to hold the hill. Upon them the enemy advanced a whole brigade, which the 36<sup>th</sup> engaged and kept at bay, supported on the left by the 24<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin, and on the right by Col. Leibold's brigade. The enemy advancing a strong force of cavalry, I opened with one section of Capt. Hiscox's battery, which checked their advance, and drove them back in great confusion; and the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment having exhausted their ammunition, I relieved them with the 88<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteers, Col. F. T. Sherman. This regiment, under their brave commander, advanced down the hill in splendid style, engaging the enemy at close quarters for nearly one hour, when the rebels beat a hasty retreat, leaving over 380 dead on the ground, for a quarter of a mile from our position. The 24<sup>th</sup> Wis. Vols, Col. C. H. Larabee went forward under cheers, and soon engaged the enemy's right, pouring in and keeping up a close fire upon their brigade, which made sad havoc amongst them. This wing was the first to break, the 24<sup>th</sup> following them to the left on the road until out of range, and when thus after distinguishing themselves, they retired on the top of the hill for the night.

It was no doubt the intention of the enemy to break our line, and I cannot give too much credit to our brave men for standing their ground, thus defeating their purpose. Both officers and men behaved with coolness and deliberation, marching to the front with the steadiness of veterans, and firing very regularly, though under the heaviest musketry I ever experienced. By such bravery the enemy were soon compelled to give way and run in great confusion.

Great praise is due to Capts. Hiscox and Barnett for their bravery during the whole engagement, these batteries working as if on drill or parade. I cannot express myself with sufficient gratitude for the behavior of Capt. Miller commanding 36<sup>th</sup> regiment Ill. Vols., during the whole fight – this regiment suffering most to officers and men of any in the brigade, having 9 officers wounded, 9 privates killed, and 72 wounded, many of them mortally. The 88<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vols., suffered the next greatest loss, having 8 killed and 86 wounded. Col. Sherman cannot be too much praised for his coolness and good judgment during the whole day, he observed my orders with celerity and was ever ready to do his duty,. Col. Stevens of the 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan, though not called into prominent action, behaved with great coolness, discharging his duty as support to the battery to my entire satisfaction. I would make special mention of my old Capt. Henry F. Deitz, who carried my orders through the thickest fire, and acted with the utmost coolness and promptitude meriting my deepest thanks. My Lieutenant H. M. Denning should also be mentioned with commendation.

Dr. Young, the brigade surgeon, deserves the highest praise for his admirable arrangements and great care for the sick and wounded.

N. Greusel,  
Col. Commanding, 37<sup>th</sup> Brigade,  
Army of Ohio

*AB, 11-6-1862*

Head Qtrs., 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Inf.  
Goodnight Springs, near Perryville, Ky.  
October 10, 1862

Col. Greusel, Com. 37<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 11<sup>th</sup> Div'n., Army of the Ohio; this regiment was detailed for picket duty on arriving at camp between Fredericksburg and Perryville, on the night of the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. Three companies were deployed as skirmishers on the right of the road leading to Perryville, and the remainder advanced on the road, taking a position to the right of the same. Towards morning a skirmish occurred with the outposts, to our left, but the 35<sup>th</sup> Brigade being advanced the enemy retired. Battery I, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ill. Art. advanced to the hill beyond, and this regiment, by your order took position in the timber to the right, rear of the battery, where it remained until 11 o'clock a. m. The enemy having retired, it was advanced across the open field and through the timber in front, to a position in support of Battery G, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mo. Art. It remained in position there until retired by your order to position behind a cornfield, to the right of the Perryville road, one section of artillery being posted on the left, and two sections upon the hill directly in rear of the center. The enemy's infantry in strong force advanced upon the position, and this regiment was here first engaged. The fire was opened by file in each platoon, and continued until our ammunition, (50 rounds per man) was exhausted. Finding the ammunition running low, Adjutant Biddolph was sent for more, but it having become entirely consumed, and the enemy's fire much slackened the regiment was ordered to fix bayonets, but being advised by you that the enemy's cavalry menaced us towards the left, the regiment was ordered by the right of companies, to the rear leaving space for another regiment (the 24<sup>th</sup> Mo.) supplied the ammunition. Some confusion was occasioned in retiring on account of the 88<sup>th</sup> Ill. Inf. covering the three right companies, but after passing through the battery a new line was promptly formed on the left of the battery on the left of the road in the cornfield, where our ammunition was immediately replenished. The

enemy's attack upon our first position had been meantime repulsed and put to flight by a charge from our infantry. The enemy appearing in front of our new position, the 21<sup>st</sup> Mich. was ordered by you to join us, and then both regiments were retired by your direction, to the brow of the hill, to support Burnett's Battery in a new position, which battery had opened fire on the flank of the enemy, pressing upon our forces to the left. The regiment lay upon its arms on the hill during the night. On the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> taking a position in rear of the 88<sup>th</sup> Ill. Infantry, the regiment was ordered to advance to this camp, arriving here at 5 p. m.

All officers acquitted themselves honorably and bravely, so that all are entitled to consideration as brave and efficient officers. I desire on my own part to thank Capt. Porter C. Olson for his daring and efficiency in aiding to command the regiment during the fight, and to Act. Adjutant Biddolph communicating with you and others during the heat of the action.

Appended will be found a list of the casualties during the action as follows; Killed, 9; Wounded, 64, including 7 officers.

I have the honor to be, respectfully,

Silas Miller  
Capt. 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Infantry Vols.  
Commanding Regiment  
Camp at Goodnight Springs, Ky., Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>,  
1862

*AB, 11-6-1862*

#### ARMY CORRESPONDENCE

Camp on Salt River, Ky.  
October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1862

It is now sometime since I wrote you last. Want of time is my excuse. The regiment is halted and cooking rations today, consequently I write you a note and give you a few items of the recent fight. We left Louisville on Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and marched in a southerly direction. About the second or third day out, our advance began to find Bragg's pickets and rear guard. Slight skirmishes took place nearly every day until we arrived near Bardstown, in Washington County, where we began to find the sneaking rebels thicker and faster. Finally our advance found

a large squad of them near Bardstown, and a general engagement was promised us. As soon however, when the army was halted and danger announced ahead, the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment Ill. Vol. and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Missouri were called for, and trotted ahead to feel of the enemy. The new hundred dollar men being too green or too precious to kill on such short notice. The old Pea Ridge boys started ahead with a cheer and a will, and double quicked it nearly five miles only to learn that Bragg and his bragging cowards flew the track and skedaddled towards Dixie. The boys came back cross and sullen. They had neither smelled powder nor seen blood while all their prospects of a fight had changed for another Missouri foot race with over a hundred thousand on a side. The word forward came and we started after them fully determined to drive or fight them on every and all occasions, notwithstanding the extreme heat and almost suffocating dusty condition of the roads. On we pushed, through dust, dirt and sun, for several counties, fighting their rear guard every day until finally we pushed them so hard that they were compelled to turn and give us battle. The fight took place near Perryville, in Washington County. Washington County is quite a hilly but poorly watered County, consequently they took their position on a small stream and around some springs near Perryville, knowing that our men and animals had been nearly without water for two days. Calculating doubtless that they could drive us back after water. In this they were sadly mistaken. Our men were after a fight, and victory, water or no water. The first fight in the morning took place over a spring. Of course our boys took the spring and drank from it. The 36<sup>th</sup> Brigade, under the command of Col. Liebbold, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Missouri was principally engaged in the first round. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Missouri had twenty men killed and sixty wounded in this spree. The 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois boys soon came to their aid, and also filled their canteens from the spring in spite of Bragg and his dirty fellows. After this our boys had water plenty. The rebels now fell back on the center, and things became comparatively quiet on our front while they concentrated on our left and on McCook's Corps. Both armies now figured and maneuvered considerably, (for the full particulars of which, I refer you to the accompanying official reports of Capt. Miller to Col. Greusel and Col. Greusel to Gen. Sheridan.) -- (See report on first page)

The charge spoken of by Col. Greusel, was made by a brigade of Hardee's pet troops and was a most splendid and determined effort. Never did troops show more bravery and better drill, or determination than did those rebels of Hardee's. It spoke well for their courage and military training. They missed their guess, sadly however, when they determined to take a battery that was guarded by the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois. Our boys saw them coming with colors flying, more than three quarters of a mile. They came rushing ahead, flags flying, and their men yelling like so many demons. All this only served to steady our boys nerves. Not an officer or man faltered or flinched, notwithstanding the rebel yelling devils near approach. When

the command was given by the young and gallant commander, Capt. Silas Miller, the boys set forth such a volley as thinned the rebel ranks. Our boys stood firm and loaded and fired with great coolness and accuracy, making sad and terrible work of the secesh. The rebels rallied several times, but were repulsed every time. Finally they rallied and tied their flag staff to the fence, so determined were they to hold position and keep their colors to the breeze. Our boys continued sending volley after volley among them until the rebel fire almost ceased, when our boys exhausted their ammunition and were compelled to retire. The boys came back cursing and swearing because they had no more ammunition, notwithstanding many of them had fired seventy-five rounds and their gun barrels were so hot then that they could not hold them in their hands. The ground in front of the 36<sup>th</sup> was literally and thickly covered with the rebel dead and wounded. We left nine men dead upon the field, and four more died before morning, making our loss thirteen killed and sixty odd wounded. The wounded, through the untiring efforts of Surgeon Young and Pierce, and their faithful nurses and assistants, were all cared for early in the evening.

Colonel Greusel commanded the 37<sup>th</sup> Brigade, and added new laurels to his already enviable reputation. He is highly spoken of by General Sheridan and others. Captain Miller commanded the regiment and done it splendidly. The boys speak of him with admiration. Capt. Sam Shearer, and his company B cavalry, were with General Mitchell, and in the thickest of the fight all day. They took a prominent part in capturing fifteen wagons loaded with ammunition, showing most conclusively that company B can and will do its duty when properly led. The company is doing splendidly and Capt. Sam is making his mark among cavalry officers. Finally, the 36<sup>th</sup> boys are all bully boys and will fight. That's my opinion. What's yours?

Tattle Tale.

After the battle of Perryville, the 36<sup>th</sup> with the rest of the exhausted Union army, sluggishly pursued Bragg through the cave country of Kentucky, pausing to gawk at the caverns in places like Fat Man's Misery and the Bottomless Pit, and to wonder at the eyeless fish caught in their eerie depths.

Their pursuit at length brought them to Nashville, the occupied capital of Tennessee, where they helped build fortifications, and hunkered down for the winter.

## March to Nashville, Tennessee, October 16 – November 7, 1862

### Duty at Nashville until December 26<sup>th</sup>

AB, 11-6-1862

#### ARMY CORRESPONDENCE

Kentucky, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1862

My last was from Crab Orchard, Boyle County. We left our camp near Crab Orchard on Monday morning, and marched back over the Lancaster and Danville Pike as far as Danville, where we turned to the left and marched in a southwesterly direction over the Clarkstown and Salt River Pike as far as Lebanon, Blarion County, near which town we are now camped. We reached this camp last evening, and are stopping today waiting for rations. Lebanon is the terminus of the Louisville and Lebanon railroad, which road is now to furnish us with supplies. All this section of country has of late been under rebel rule, consequently all the bridges have been burned and destroyed that could possibly impede the movements of the Federal army. The bridges on the Lebanon road have just been completed, and the first train of cars arrived at Lebanon last evening, and the supplies are today being landed from them to the army. We are on the Lebanon and Nashville Pike, doubtless marked "through to Nashville on foot," distance two hundred miles. We are marching on what the commanders in this department term "*light footed*," which means when properly interpreted, without tents or clothing and with as little food as can possibly keep body and soul together. This is Buell's policy, to which he adds his admirable strategy, which is to keep just as far from Bragg as possible, and when by accident he does meet him, fights him lightly. I say, the devil take Buell and his policy. My word for it, had Sigel commanded the Federal army at the recent fight near Perryville, Bragg and a large portion of his army would today be residents of camp Douglas instead of commanders and members of the Confederate army.

Things in this department are moving slow and without point. If the crushing of the rebellion depends largely upon movements in this department, and Buell is retained as its commander, then I tell you and your readers, the end is yet far distant. We are now about seventy-five miles from Louisville with an army of over one hundred thousand men. We have also about twenty-five thousand troops

guarding Louisville. Notwithstanding the immense army within so short a distance of each other, yet on Monday morning of this week, one hundred of the notorious Morgan's cavalry dashed in on the main road where it crosses the beach fork of Salt River, and captured and burned one hundred and sixty wagons of our provision train. After they had completed their destructive work they sat down and quietly ate their breakfast out of the rations captured, knowing that they were in no danger even this near Buell's army. Finally, my private opinion, publicly expressed is, that of all the star actors now performing in Uncle Samuel's circus, Don Carlos Buell is the greatest humbug. The whole army seems to be concentrating near Lebanon. What is to be done with them, or where they are all to go, I have no idea. Report says that a portion is to go to Virginia. How true this may be I cannot tell. Certainly they ought to go somewhere and accomplish great things soon, or all is gone. We have traveled much, endured much, but we are willing to double all, if only our commanders will push forward and do something and save our country and our cause. If they will only quit politics, and attend to their fighting, this rebellion can and will be crushed out by the first day of January next.

This portion of Kentucky is a splendid country. Boyle County, about Danville, is the finest section of this earth that I have yet visited. The farmers all through this section, are wealthy, and live like princes. Their residences are perfect palaces. They are surrounded with the finest stock that I have ever seen. Negroes they have in abundance. We have seen more negroes since we left Louisville, than we saw in all of Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi. The negroes are well clothed, and well fed, and seem very happy. I am satisfied they are better off, and more happy where they are, and as they are, than we could make them in Kane County. I say the policy of this war ought to be against the right of secession, and not alone against the institution of slavery. The extreme abolitionists are having an undue influence over the administration, and I fear will continue this war too long. They, and the administration, ought to consider the loss of human life among their white friends, as well as the welfare of the almighty nigger. At the least calculation, of the twelve hundred thousand men of the north, who have joined the army, four hundred thousand will never return, providing the war continues twelve months longer. Another two hundred thousand will return with ruined constitutions and health, while another large percentage will return with ruined morals, fit subject's for Uncle Samuel's other institutions. Add these together, and you can see what a small percentage of soldiers will return home to their friends fit for business and society. Geo. This is not an over drawn picture, but they are hard stubborn facts – facts that will be sustained by actual statistics.

General Greusel's brigade is in splendid condition. The "old man" is himself now a days, and generally admired by the officers and men of his brigade,

which consists of the old 36<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> Missouri, 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan and the 88<sup>th</sup> Illinois. The health of our troops continues good, notwithstanding the hardships that Buell inflicts upon them. The 36<sup>th</sup> has no body sick. We have not lost a man by sickness since the first of July. This we claim is doing pretty well. Passing the three sickly months of the season in a southern climate and not lose a man. Captain Miller is still in command of the regiment, and is cock of the roost since the Perryville fight. The 36<sup>th</sup> boys will fight for Sile and the old flag hereafter. We hear nothing from company A, cavalry, since we left them at Rienzi, except through the *Beacon*. We learn that the wounded boys at Louisville are doing well. Three have died since the fight, making our loss in dead seventeen. Ralph Miller, of company C whose friends and acquaintances reside near Montgomery, is among the dead. He died since the fight. Lieut. John Watkins, of the 89<sup>th</sup> regiment, has been detailed by Gen. Buell as aid to General Greusel, and is now on Greusel's staff. John is a bully good soldier, but wants to ride. Who don't?

Tattle Tale.

*GCH 11-12-1862*

#### SANITARY COMMISSION ROOMS

66 Madison Street.  
Chicago, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> 1862

*To the Secretary of the Morris Soldier's Aid Society:*

Please say to the patriotic Ladies of Morris that their valuable contributions came duly to hand and went forward timely for the sufferers of Corinth, Miss.

They were distributed by our tried and faithful agent Mr. Goodsmith, and have blessed many a true and noble man. Though we may have neglected you it has not been intentional, we have been overrun with work incident to many demands and moving rooms to our present and pleasant quarters. Shall be glad to hear often from you and will endeavor to deserve your confidence.

E. W. BLATCHFORD, Cor. Sec'y.

*AB, 11-13-1862*

#### LETTER FROM THE ARMY

Bowling Green, Ky.,  
Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1862

Eds. Beacon; -- Your "regular" correspondent informs me that the silence being necessary on his part this week, he craves an infliction upon you from another source.

The 36<sup>th</sup> lay with its division in Lebanon, last Sunday. During that day and the previous night three inches of snow fell. Being tentless and very poorly shod, the impression had been conveyed that we were probably to remain until those articles were furnished. But when the order came to move toward Bowling Green at 5 a. m. Monday morning, it was most gratifying to see the alacrity and cheerfulness with which all hands responded. Though so many of our marches seem like purposeless wanderings, yet the disposition to do, to dare, and to suffer, is still unabated. But there is coming to be a disposition to demand some equivalent for the sacrifice. The sacrifice is ready, but let it avail something. If there are long, wearisome marches to perform, let them bring us to the enemy; if we give life, give our comrades triumph over the foe; let victory accompany death and the cost is never counted. But in the campaign just ended, if General Buell has given any such equivalent to his army, it is hard to discern it, and they hail with joyous thanks of welcome the coming and the rule of the glorious and fighting Rosecrans. He came down on the train this afternoon.

The march from Lebanon has been quite easy. Aside from dust, since the snow disappeared, and short rations, there has been nothing to find fault with. We arrived here three hours ago, and of course have had no time to look at the town.

Our tents and camp equipage have arrived, and we are in tents for the first time since leaving Louisville. Thursday night we were encamped near Cave City, within nine miles of the Mammoth Cave. Having been without a day's relaxation from duty since the regiment was organized, and falling in with a party composed of Capt. Shaw, Adjutant Willis, the Chaplain, Rev. Mr. Haigh, Dr. Pierce, Lieut. Barnard, and two or three others, and believing it to be "a fine opening for a young man," we got leave and joined the party. A ride of an hour or two through a hill country, covered with stunted, gnarled oaks, brought us to the Cave Hotel. After a hasty but hearty supper, eaten from *earthen dishes*, by the aid of knives and forks, with our party increased to eighteen, under the guidance of the game-leg darkey guide, Mat, we took up the line of march. We went in about 5 p. m. and kept up a pretty steady gait until between 12 and 1 at night. Well, it's a big side show to the Army of the Ohio. There is a book descriptive of some of the principal attractions of the cave. Mammoth Cave is worth a dozen Niagaras to look at. When the war is over, take your wife aboard the train, induce a dozen of your neighbors to do likewise, and just drop down and see it, and then you'll know I am speaking with my accustomed regard for truth. Edmunson County grows nothing but caves, but beats the world on that. See it before you die.

Matters with the regiment are smooth. Doc. Young has been appointed *pro tem* Medical Director of the 11<sup>th</sup> Division, by order of General Sheridan. Doc. Swears if he ever catches an abolitionist, he'll give him a quart of castor oil and a bottle of quinine at one dose. John Watkins, of company E, 89<sup>th</sup> regiment, is A. D. C. to Col. Greusel. The regiment proposes to send out a party to recruit officers. There has not been a field officer with it since the middle of August, and since the casualties of Perryville there is an average of one line officer per company. We hope for the interest of the regiment that this state of things will not much longer continue. Demoralization must result, unless the men are most extraordinary. If there are any shirks or slinks in your vicinity, let everybody politely ask them to leave. Since the arrival of the Chaplain we have had the first divine service since leaving Rolla.

Advices from the wounded of Perryville and Louisville are highly favorable. There have been eight deaths from wounds occurred since the battle, and it is probable that the wounds of two or three more will prove fatal. It is expected that General Rosecrans will re-organize his command, either at this point or some place lower down. If here, we may remain a few days. We are only anxious that we may still continue under the command of the unassuming, brave and efficient Sheridan, and not under Gilbert or Rousseau. We don't like too much concert of the one, or too much blow of the other.

Waiting impatiently for orders, we shall rejoice when, with stuffed haversacks, rested limbs and lighted pipes and hearts, go thoughtfully and silently towards the equator.

On Foot.

*GCH, 11-25-1862*

OUR SOLDIERS. – It is seldom that a letter is received from our volunteers who are so bravely and uncomplainingly enduring the dangers, hardships and privations, incident to the soldier's life, but that they complain of remissness of friends in not writing to them, and reprove for not sending papers. If those at home, who enjoy all the pleasures and comfort of the fireside, could but realize the substantial gratification that could be vouchsafed the soldier, by often corresponding with him, more letters would be written. But there is less certainty of papers reaching their destination, therefore every person who has a friend in the army, should write frequently to the absent one. Write to the boys, they have claims upon your consideration; and when you write, direct to the name of person,

the letter of the company, and the number of the regiment.

*GCH, 11-25-1862*

THE 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT. – There is a hallowed memory clustering around the old 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Raised under the first call for three years volunteers, they have become veterans in the service. Its colors though borne in the thickest of the fray in more than one hard fought battle have never trailed in the dust – it has endured all the hardships, and braved all the dangers, of the service, never failing to do its duty. Its ranks, although thinned by disease and decimated by rebel lead, are invincible before the enemy. It has had an eventful history, and has traveled over five of the Southern States, rendering service at points embracing a thousand miles apart. It was engaged in the three day's battles of Bentonville, Leetown and Pea Ridge, under Gen. Asboth; in front of Corinth under Gen. Pope; penetrated Mississippi to Reinza; came back, via Cairo, to Cincinnati; thence, via Indianapolis to Louisville; fought at Chaplin Hills; marched to Crab Orchard, and thence via Bowling Green to Nashville.

*AB, 12-4-1862*

#### LETTER FROM THE ARMY

Nashville, Tenn.,  
November 14, 1862

Eds. Beacon; -- Having the necessary leisure this morning, I send you a few items from this section of the disputed territory. We arrived here on Friday, November 7th, and are camped on the north bank of the Cumberland river, in a splendid grove. We have passed through some good country since I wrote you before. Not so good, however as that portion of Kentucky about Danville and Boyle county. We crossed the state line on the 5<sup>th</sup> about noon. The change was perceptible almost immediately, both in the appearance of the country, and the actions and looks of the inhabitants. The people of Tennessee are thoroughly *disloyal*, and make no hesitancy in showing their sentiments and determinations. They are more bitter and determined secessionists than the Kentuckians.

Soon, after crossing the state line, we came to a miserable, small log house town, called Mitchellville, so nearly deserted that there were not inhabitants left to even tell us the name of their miserable secesh town. The only real evidence left in

the town, showing that it had ever been inhabited, was an old advertisement, posted on the side of a deserted log house whisky shop, announcing that Levi J. North's Democratic Circus would exhibit there on a certain day in the *past*. The boys of the 88<sup>th</sup> regiment soon recognized the thing as of Chicago origin, and cheered accordingly. Mitchellville is the present terminus of the Nashville and Louisville Railroad, and is a fair representation of the Tennessee towns we have passed through thus far in this trip. Mitchellville is forty five miles from Nashville, and all our supplies for this immense army have to be hauled from there by teams. Just imagine a city with one hundred thousand well, hearty, laboring men, compelled to derive all their subsistence from a distance of forty five miles by teams, and you have an idea of the labor and time required to feed and move this army. Be not surprised, therefore, if this army, for the present does not move with more than telegraphic rapidity. Of course after our arrival here we got our best fixins on and visited and viewed the city of Nashville, the celebrated capital of Tennessee. Most of our northern boys (myself among the number,) expressed themselves surprised and disappointed in regard to Nashville. It is not so large, or so fine a city as we anticipated. Its buildings are old, dirty, and dilapidated. The streets are narrow, rough and decidedly dark. Everything about the city indicates----- . It is a fair index of a slave city. Everything is entrusted to the lazy, thieving, harmless negro, who gets what ----- and bacon his lazy digestion requires to keep him alive as a remuneration for his lazy services. It's a humbug. The negro is a humbug! Nashville is a humbug ! The Nashville theatre is a *big* humbug ! The south is a humbug ! Southern chivalry is a h—l of a humbug ! Finally, the Southern Confederacy is the humbug of all humbugs.

The state house is a large extravagant institution; it is really the majority of Nashville. It presents an imposing appearance. It is built on a high elevation of ground, near the center of the city. The greatest objection to its external arrangements is the limited quantity of grounds surrounding it. Internally it has some fine things, and some that are very objectionable. Its lower stories are too low. The offices and hall look low and dingy. The representative and senate chamber are magnificent; their decorations and ornaments are well designed and splendidly executed. The workmanship throughout the entire building is very fine. The next thing worthy of note is the grave of ex-President James K. Polk. He is buried in the front yard of his own residence, near the center of the city. The whole arrangement looks common, but solid and lasting. The residence is brick and built after the Southern style; it looks old, dilapidated and neglected. The yard is pretty well ornamented with shrubbery, evergreens and fine walks. Neither the home nor yard are as fine as Daniel McCarty's in Aurora.

The people dress very common, both men and women, a majority wearing homespun. This is one secrete of their wealth – they live within their income.

They all set very plain tables, much poorer than we at the north. They live plainer and cheaper than we do in every way. They use more tobacco than we do, but they raise it. They drink more and poorer whisky than we do, but they make it. They are a different people, living and striving for different objects and purposes. They have different notions in regard to life, religion, society and everything. I think less of the south and its people the more I see them and the better I become acquainted with them. They certainly are a humbug.

In relation to the recent removal of our military commanders, there are differences of opinion. When Don Carlos Buell was taken from us, not a tear was shed, nor a sigh drawn. We all said, good; go thou and let thy incompetence and slowness be a warning to thy successors. Peace to his worthless ashes. In regard to the removal of McClellan there was more fluttering. All the Democrats condemned it, and some of the soft skinned Republicans regret it. A majority of the thoroughly loyal Union men say it was necessary. I believe the great good will grow out of it. McClellan and his more partisan friends did not and do not desire to see this rebellion crushed nor ended *during Lincoln's administration*. They do not want to leave the record to posterity that the Democratic party brought on one of the most wicked and infernal rebellions that the world ever heard of, sad that the Republican party crushed it, and restored peace during one administration. Such are the facts, and such a record will be left, if Lincoln only keeps peace with the army, and removes promptly all incompetent and political commanders. A gentleman from southern Georgia told me last night that the removal of McClellan was a worse blow to the southern Confederacy than all the battles he had ever fought them. He said if the south had been left to select a commander for the north, they would have selected George B. McClellan. He was a Union war Democrat, and an extensive slave owner.

Things in the regiment are moving quietly. Captain Jenks has not joined us yet. We are looking for him every day. Our new Chaplain, Rev. Mr. Haigh, is with us constantly, and is a valuable acquisition. He spends his whole time for the regiment. He and his sermons are well liked by the officers and boys of the regiment. Beacons come regularly and are a treat. Continue sending them and much oblige.

Tattle Tale.

**Performed Reconnaissance toward Clarksville, Tennessee, November 15-20,  
1862**

*AB, 12-4-1862*

Nashville, Tenn.,  
November 18<sup>th</sup>, 1862

Eds. Beacon; Ten days have expired since the removal of the do nothing little McClellan and still the world stands. The effects of the first shock have passed, and the army pulse beats regularly as ever. The more noisy Democrats have collapsed, and are now consoling themselves with the obsolete idea that what is to be will be anyhow. I must confess that it looks a little that way with Uncle Abe's matters. He is emphatically captain, and runs the machine pretty much after his own notions of right and wrong. I have but one fault to find with his administration thus far. In my judgment he postponed the draft too long; it ought to have been enforced in August when it was first issued. Had it been enforced then, it would have saved the various states, thousands of dollars of indebtedness; - money paid out as bounties, a majority of which is now in the hands of contractors, sharpies and dishonest sutlers. We should have many more men in the field to aid in the crushing of the rebellion; and more than all, it would have saved our northern states that terrible disgrace of recent Democratic victories. I say terrible disgrace because I mean it. I look upon it as a disgrace for the majority of any state, in these times, to say that they prefer dissolution to union of the States. Look at the recent draft riots in Ohio and Wisconsin. Mark the locality and then examine the vote. In every instance you find a large Democratic majority. Will you attempt to make me believe that those men are loyal? – nonsense. They are wolves in sheep's clothing. They are the meanest secessionists in our land. They are our enemies and the enemies of our nation. They have no business among us. They should be driven beyond our lines where they would soon taste the sweets of secession. I have no doubt but many of the present imbecile members of the Confederate army and States are goaded on in their mad career by promises from northern Democratic rioters. Do not all the southern papers claim the results of the late elections as a virtual endorsement of their wicked doings and hellish designs? That the leaders of the party have deceived many if not most of their uncultivated followers I have no doubt. Poor ignorant dupes – how many of them know anything about the workings of our American institutions! A majority of them have their original rattles on their tongues yet. Think of those men controlling

America – never.

Our army here is in fine condition. With Rosecrans, Sheridan and Greusel to lead us, the 37<sup>th</sup> Brigade is fully content. Rosecrans has a reputation, and therefore needs no notice at my hands. General Sheridan, our division commander, is a gentleman, a soldier, and the pet of his command. Of Gen. Greusel I need add nothing. He is fully himself, and commands all around here. The health of the army is good, very good. The Railroad regiment just passed by our camp. The Aurora boys are generally well. Robert Miller has been quite unwell, though better now, and with us. He will remain with us a few days to visit his brother, the Major. Yesterday's mail brought a large addition of parchment in the way of new commissions. Among the promotions are Captain Albert Jenks to Lieutenant Colonel, Capt. Silas Miller to Major, and Lieutenant George A. Willis to Capt. of Company A, Cavalry. This will bring our friend Jenks back to us, and put him in command of the regiment. We fear it may take Willis from us and send him to his company. To this we all object most emphatically. We cannot part with George. He has been with us from the start, and is one of us. He is the good fellow of the regiment, and we cannot do without him. No one man has as many friends in the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment as Captain George A. Willis. I am glad that the commissions have come. The commissioned officers have been scarce in our regiment since the Perryville fight, and the few that remained have been performing double duty much of the time.

Things in the regiment have changed very much since we left Camp Hammond. We have but one of our original Captains left in command of his company. The places, however are filled with good and responsible men. Upon the whole, I think the regiment has lost but little in the many and various changes. We are tiring of this idleness, and hope to move forward soon. The monotony of camp life is becoming almost intolerable. Give us the field, the long march, and the excitement of a chase, or a fight, and we are always healthy and happy. Marching and fighting are accomplishments that the 36<sup>th</sup> excels in, and boasts of. Our boys divide their time between drilling, dress parade, standing picket, and making briar root pipes. We are camped in a very pleasant and healthy location, and our troops seem to endure this climate without any inconvenience. There is a very mistaken idea, pervading the North, in reference to the Southern States, as regards climate, as well as many other things. They have quite as many sudden and disagreeable changes in the weather here as we do in the North. I think our northern climate the more pleasant of the two. Then again, in regard to the South being a good fruit country – that is all a humbug. They raise but very little fruit here, and that is all of the poorest seedling variety. They have no varieties here. I have not seen a dozen decent apples since we left Cincinnati, Ohio. Even in Louisville the markets contained no good fruit. The groceries and markets in

Aurora, in their poorest days, are far ahead of them. The people here are a different people. The principal productions of this country are hog and hominy, mules, negroes and fine cattle. Their women, even are common stock. They are nearly all white headed, and say “which” when you ask them a question. Perhaps the following list of Nashville prices may interest your readers. It will give them a slight idea of what it costs to live in the Southern Confederacy.

Flour is selling at thirteen dollars a barrel, potatoes, four dollars per bushel, butter, one dollar per pound, and poor at that; eggs, one dollar per dozen; black tea, two dollars and fifty cents per pound, with other things in proportion This is in niggerdom. Perhaps your Northern rattle-tongued Democrats would be pleased to have the institution spread all over our free States and territories, so that the same things might prevail there.

Things east and west are looking better. Burnside is evidently pushing things, while Grant is doing as in days gone by – granting no quarter. This central army goes forward soon. The railroad is nearly completed from Louisville to Nashville, after which they can and will furnish us our daily hard bread and bacon, far beyond this. We are willing and anxious to try the experiment. Our boys are now in good spirit, good health and good shoes – three very essential items for long marches and successful fighting. Two or three brigades have already crossed the river, and are ten or twelve miles beyond us on their way towards Dixie. There is no doubt that we shall all go soon. Beacons of last week arrived today. Much obliged.

Tattle Tale.

### **Reconnaissance to Mill Creek, November 27, 1862**

*WS, 12-10-1862*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 20, 1862.

EDITORS WOODSTOCK SENTINEL :

After the battle of Perryville, Kentucky, our time was mostly spent in the endurance of fatiguing marches over dusty roads, until we reached this place, on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst., tired, and many of us nearly worn out. At Bowling Green we lay over two days, for rest and to draw some clothing, of which we were greatly in need, particularly shoes. While there, our tents and other baggage came up; so we slept under cover again, for the first time since leaving Louisville, just one month.

Bowling Green has been as our southern friends have it, a "right smart place," but the war has made a sorry looking picture of it. Scarcely a length of fence is to be seen in or about the city, and nearly all the best public buildings have been destroyed by fire.

Since our arrival here we have had inspections, parades, reviews, etc., daily. Major Gen. Rosecrans reviewed our division on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. The soldiers have a great deal of respect for him as a man, and all confidence in him as their leader. While riding in front of us he said he understood the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois was the best drilled in the Manual of any regiment in the service, quite complimentary, we thought. After reviewing the brigade he rode back, and had Col. Greusel drill us a short time with the musket.

We are encamped on the north side of the river, opposite the town; and as but one pass is allowed to a company in a day, we think we are nearly cut off from the city. With the exception of bad colds, our regiment is tolerably healthy. Our company has one in the hospital, S. Z. Carver, but he is doing well.

Capt. Silas Miller of company B, who has commanded the regiment since leaving Rienzi, Mississippi, has been promoted to the rank of Major.

Since Capt. Griffing was wounded, our company has been commanded by Sergeant Smith. Orderly Sergeant Patterson received his discharge on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, and started homeward. Corporal O. H. Ford has been promoted to Sergeant, and Madison M. Gould to Corporal.

The mail arrives and departs daily, and the telegraph is also up between here and Louisville, so we begin to get the news once more. Troops stationed here say they had not had their letter from home in two months, until we came through. The weather for the past few days has been rainy and disagreeable. Today is cold and cloudy, with less rain. Brigade drill in fifteen minutes, so I must close and prepare for it.

In haste yours, Q. R.

## SWORD PRESENTATION.

The Presentation Party at the Waverly last Friday evening was a very pleasant affair. In the first place the Waverly knows how to entertain a party in order to make it pleasant. All the appointments of the House are perfect., and as such a supper as Mr. Kimball furnishes would tempt an epicure. On this occasion a large number of the friends of the battery were present and at ten o'clock the elegant sword and sash were placed on the table in the center of the Waverly Hall, and Mr. Balantine in a neat speech presented it to Mr. Renwick. Col. Joslyn then presented his elegant revolver to the Captain, in a speech abounding in his peculiarities. It sometimes swelled like the sound of a trumpet calling to battle, and anon it breathed the most touching tenderness and personal regard for his old friend. Captain Renwick responded in a gallant style, promising that those weapons should be used upon the enemies of the country, and never basely surrendered. He would as a true soldier, obey all orders given by superior officers, except such as one given by Col. Miles at Harper's Ferry. Such a one he would never obey. He said his battery was now full and complete. (The roster we have been unable to obtain.) That they were to be furnished with six twenty four pounders, making it one of the heaviest in the service. It was expected that in a few days orders would be received for them to embark for Memphis to join John McClernand in his expedition for opening the Mississippi. The speakers were frequently interrupted by the applause of the audience.

A portion of the members of the battery, under the direction of Lieut's. Paine and Wood, were drawn up at one end of the hall, and excited the admiration of all by their soldierly bearing. These ceremonies over, the company entered the capacious dining hall and sat down to a supper gotten up in true "Waverly style," to which of course the guests did ample justice.

The saber is of the very best finish, costing, with the belt and sash about sixty dollars. The revolver was equally elegant, and has the additional recommendation of having seen service, being the one Col. Joslyn carried through his campaign in Missouri, Arkansas, &c. It was vouched for as being true to the Constitution and the Union.

Mr. Ballantine complimented Captain Renwick for his energy in enlisting a battery in the midst of a political campaign, when the authorities were politically opposed to him, but strangely forgot to pay a passing tribute to Governor Yates for his magnanimity in commissioning a violent political opponent. We think the honors are easy between them. The battery takes the best wishes of the people with it.

**Assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, Right Wing, 14<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Army  
of the Cumberland until January, 1863**

AB, 12-11-1862

LETTER FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>

Mill Creek, Near Nashville Tennessee

Nov. 28, 1862

Eds. Beacon; We live in an age of wonders ! An era marked with terrible events – a year of proclamations and democratic victories – a time when inferior men are promoted to high military offices through political intrigues, and for political purposes, instead of great and meritorious military achievements – a time when two millions of Americans – men who are created in the image of God Almighty are forsaking friends, families and the comforts of home and civilization, to tent, crawl and shirk about the woods, swamps and by ways, determined to shoot, steal or maim each other. A season when men are in high authority one day, and very low the next. Everything and everybody must conform to the necessities of the case. Men and iniquitous combinations of men will avail nothing. The people both North and South, must and will learn that the mills of the Gods grind slow but *terrible fine*. War is a portion of the machinery of these mills, and is doing its work effectively every day, notwithstanding the boasted democratic majorities of the North. Those majorities and all their combinations will do them and their pro-slavery friends of the South no good. The big mill is started and the grist is certain to be ground. It's only a question of time. Lincoln's proclamation will be *enforced*. The army is ready and anxious to enforce it. They are tired of war – done with using the McClellan and Buell, grass and turf policy. They now ask for the stone, and in Abraham Lincoln's several proclamations they recognize the stone that is to kill the bird. They will certainly enforce those proclamations, and end this infernal rebellion soon, unless they are prevented by demagogues and disloyal commanders. The lower class of Northern Democrats sing out, "What are you going to do with the negroes when you free them? How on earth are you going to feed them?" "I will tell them and your readers just how we are going to do it. In the first place we intend to shove this immense hungry army of ours right through the center of this rich well supplied secesh country, and allow them to feed themselves well from the abundant products of this country. In other words we intend to confiscate sufficient provisions to feed our army well. Next we intend to

confiscate all these fine deserted farms and houses, whose owners are in the rebel army, or in any way connected with the Confederate machine. Next, we confiscate every negro in the disloyal States, and as fast as we move forward we secure the negroes and send them to our rear, and put them to work on Uncle Samuel's recently acquired farms, right in the neighborhood where they were raised, and to whose climate they were so well adapted. We shall not send them back as slaves belonging to Uncle Samuel or any other man, but as free citizens of the United States. Men and women owning their own bodies and bones, as well as souls.

For this policy I claim the following advantages; First, we can move our army more rapidly – we need not lay waiting for rations. In the next place we take from them their lands and houses, and their wealth; without their means they cannot continue the war. Thirdly, we take their slaves, which are the bulwark of the Southern Confederacy. Their slaves are their main support. They raise all the food for the Confederate Army. They remain home and take care of all the families of the Confederate soldiers. They dig all the trenches, build their bridges and do most of the severe labor about their camps. Send them back to our rear, on these now deserted farms, and they will support themselves as well, while it deprives the Southern army of its laborers, its feeders and producers. Then the whites will be compelled to quit soldiering and look after their families. They will be compelled to quit their idleness and devilment and go to tilling the soil, or starve to death. The policy from the first day of January, 1863 is to be stand from under.

On Friday night the 21<sup>st</sup>, I went and heard Parson Brownlow and Hon. Horace Maynard of east Tennessee. They spoke at the Methodist church at Nashville. From Brownlow I learned nothing new. I had read the printed report of his speech as delivered in Boston and Chicago. They are all the same. He has but one piece, and speaks that on all occasions. His speeches are tirades of bitterness and epithets. He has a very bold cold delivery, and amuses his audiences with his oddities and odd expressions. I do not like the man, his manners nor matters. He is a wonderful man, not a smart man. He originates nothing but bitterness and epithets. He glories in his martyrdom and is making money out of it. He is the extreme extract of bitterness. He is too bitter for family use. He will only do for rare and extreme cases. So bitter a plant as he can never produce sweet or usable fruit.

Maynard is a talented man – a man of sense and decision. He is a thoroughly loyal man, and a man of influence in Tennessee. He is worth a whole theatre of Brownlows to the Union cause in this country.

Our regiment and division left our old camp near Nashville on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, crossed the Cumberland river, marched through the city and over the Nashville Pike, a distance of seven miles, to Mill Creek, where we are now

encamped. We are in the woods again, and consequently happy. We have soldiered until the woods seem like home and friends to us; I believe that feeling is growing upon us, but am quite uncertain as to how long it will take to make us entirely wild – make us take to woods *entirely*. What are the limits? When do the laws of the United States, and civilization declare men and things outlawed – wild? Myself and some of my friends desire very much to keep within bounds; we are determined to try and hope through the aid of our kind and faithful Chaplain to succeed.

The crushing policy has been and is being enforced here, since Rosecrans' advent to the army. A few days since our brigade, under command of Col. Sherman, of the 88<sup>th</sup> regiment, made a short forage detour in to the disputed territory. They were gone three days, and then returned with two hundred and forty seven wagon loads of forage and produce, besides numerous horses, mules, hogs, sheep and milch cows, -- all secured from undoubted secessionists. Col. Sherman is a splendid officer and commands a good regiment. He goes in for a vigorous war policy, only is a little (in my opinion) too democratic on the contraband question.

Nothing of special importance has transpired in the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment since I wrote you last. Yesterday was Thanksgiving, and we enjoyed it hugely. We left camp at four o'clock a. m. on an investigation into the disputed territory. The expedition consisted of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> regiment of Missouri Volunteers, and the 44<sup>th</sup> Illinois of the 35<sup>th</sup> Brigade, under command of General Schofer, and the 88<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois regiments with two sections of Captain Barnett's 2<sup>nd</sup> Ill. (Joliet) battery, of the 37<sup>th</sup> Brigade, under command of General Greusel, and left camp as above stated in a southerly direction. We had proceeded only about two miles from our camp, when we run into three outside cavalry pickets. These pickets fired their pieces, mounted their mustangs and departed towards Dixie on double quick, without even leaving us a lock of their hair. We penetrated about six miles into the sulphurous Confederate regions, where our orders and expedition ended. We passed through a very clever and interesting country, inhabited by sneaky, guilty looking and acting copper-buttons. We ran into three sets of rebel pickets, who fired at us at very long range, then mounted their mustangs and skedaddled towards where Brownlow is going to baptize them by immersion. We did not take any teams with us, consequently we did not bring in much plunder. My mess was a little fortunate and secured three barrels of superfine flour, a turkey, duck, two army stoves, a pail of milk, and quite a nice quantity of sugar and coffee. Of course we divided with our friends – we always do. We saw lots of things that ought to have been brought, and would have been brought had we had our wagons. Among other things, four stout pretty young contrabands followed the expedition back. From one of them and his family I took a lesson. The circumstances are as

follows;

Soon after we started the second installment of rebel pickets, we were joined by a smart, active, sprightly negro, aged about twenty five years, who knew the roads, and volunteered to show us the way across the creek, as the rebels had turned the bridge, and the stream was not fordable at that point. It so happened that our orders ended right at his master's plantation. We halted there about two hours; all the whites and blacks had fled when we came into sight. Some of our boys suggested to him that he had better return with us, so he gathered up his cloths and blankets and made ready to accompany us. Our troops now started back. My position, in consequence of having looked after the comfort of a couple of large turkeys on the plantation, was in the rear of our retreating army. The negro had accumulated his duds and started with us, when, looking round, there came his wife and two children – a plump, fine, vigorous looking wench, with two playful, rollicking children. He saw his wife and halted. I stopped my horse to see the result, for I was interested. I desired to see which the black man loved the most, the prospect of gaining his liberty or his wife and babies. She came up to him and he said to her, “Mary, I is gwine for to leab you!” She looked thunderstruck, and inquired where he was going. He said he was going with the Northern army and be free. She replied, “You shan’t !” He asked me if she could go. I said yes. He informed her, but she instantly replied, “De Lord ! I can’t go and leab Massa and dese children.” The man looked troubled. The children came up to him and called him father. I did not say a word but sat on my horse watching events. Our brigade moved forward and I followed. I looked behind me and the negro was coming, and a short distance behind him in the road, stood his wife and children, watching the husband and father deserting them. He looked behind him frequently, and I could see his broad black chest heave in and hear him sigh. I pitied him and thought he felt and acted as I did when I left my home, wife and baby, and followed the army. In a word, he acted like a man – a human being. I thought *d—n the institution!* I hated to see the fellow leave his wife and children. But she declared she would not leave the children. I thought, what will she do when the auctioneer comes.

Tattle Tale.

*EG, 12-17-1862*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILL. REGIMENT.

Camp on Mill Creek, Near  
Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 4, 1862.

Editor Gazette:

It has been some time since I have ventured to address you, and even now I little expect that of my own merits I could write but little that would prove interesting to any of your numerous readers, but as our Surgeon D. W. Young, has been making a statistical report regarding the health, number of miles traveled, losses, discharges, resignations, &c. in the "old 36<sup>th</sup>," which I thought might prove interesting to those who had friends in the regiment, I concluded I would (as he kindly gave me leave to do so) forward the particulars for publication in your columns.

As you doubtless are aware, the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment left Camp Hammond, Aurora on Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, 1861. We numbered at the time eleven hundred and eighty three. We arrived at Rolla, Mo., via St. Louis on the 29<sup>th</sup> of the same month; we remained encamped there until the 14<sup>th</sup> of January, 1862, when suddenly orders came for us to pull up and march, "westward ho!" It was a cold stormy time the snow being from three to six inches deep, of course when we retired for the night we sometimes thought of our own snug beds at home, but all put up with it with a very good grace, resolving to face all hardships without murmuring as becomes a good soldier; we forded innumerable streams, crossed rugged hills, made long marches, and yet the health of the regiment remains good.

Since then we have done duty in five southern States, viz. Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Kentucky and Tennessee, been engaged in two important battles, Pea Ridge and that of Chaplain Hills. Have traveled twenty eight hundred miles, five hundred and twenty by steamboat, ten hundred and nineteen by rail, and twelve hundred and sixty one on foot, in the latter are not included a number of miles we have tramped foraging and going and returning from picket duty, &c., which would make considerable of an addition.

We have had thirty men killed in battle or died of their wounds. Twenty two died in our regimental hospital, under charge of our Surgeons; sixteen died in general hospitals, and three in their homes, making the total number of deaths from all causes in the regiment since its organization seventy one.

Twenty three regimental officers have resigned and been dismissed from the service. Thirty eight men have been discharged by our Surgeons on account of disability, nine discharged in order to receive promotions in other regiments. Forty three have been discharged by general orders and Post Surgeons. The band, numbering twenty three was mustered out; twenty three new recruits have joined since the organization of the regiment, thirty one have deserted leaving nine hundred and sixty eight men now belonging to the regiment and doing duty. Where is there another regiment that has been doing muster as many?

Dr. Young is acting Brigade Surgeon, and the other regiments in the Brigade consisting of the 21<sup>st</sup> Mich., 24<sup>th</sup> Wis., and 88<sup>th</sup> Ill., all new regiments report to him. As I was looking over the report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Wis., I perceived that they had one

hundred and thirty six patients in the general hospital, whereas the “old 36<sup>th</sup>” has only thirty five, and they nearly all wounded from Chaplain Hills.

Those who have friends in the regiment, need not worry about them as long as we have such good medical treatment.

It has been very pleasant here for the last few days, and we are all feeling first rate, especially since yesterday, when the Paymaster blessed us with his appearance, and paid us, for the back months of July and August; we had been without money so long that we had nearly forgotten how it looked. Of course all the sutlers are objects of great curiosity and draw big crowds, and as the boys fall back after seeing the elephant they generally have their hands filled with crackers, ginger bread, oysters, cigars, or such nic nax as the sutlers may have, for it matters but little what they get.

We expect a grand forward movement soon, as Rosecrans has got his grand army nearly organized and equipped, and we hope to keep moving until we have marched through every secesh State that now exists and planted the glorious old Stars and Stripes over every city and town, and long may it wave!

Captain Sherman and the Elgin boys are all well.

Yours, &c.,

J. C. Dennison.

Hospital Steward, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vol.

*GCH, 12-17-1862*

THE 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT. – The members of Captain Longworth’s Company, in the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, are destined to be made happy on the coming Christmas, if no untoward event shall prevent them from receiving a box of good things, collected and forwarded to them by their friends, in this city. The box was a large one and was well stowed with such things as will make an acceptable Christmas dinner, for the brave and weather beaten veterans of the old 36<sup>th</sup>. We wish them, and all others, of our volunteers, a right “merry Christmas.”

*AB, 12-18-1862*

LETTER FROM THE ARMY

Mill Creek, Tenn.,  
December 3d, 1862

Editors Beacon; These are days of proclamations, messages, eulogies and histories. Everything and everybody has or will have a history hereafter. A history is a great thing; -- a correct history is valuable, but hard to obtain. I as regimental Tattle Tale, now propose to give you the following items, composing the history of the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment Ill. Volunteers.

We left Camp Hammond, Aurora, Kane County, Illinois, on Tuesday afternoon, September 24, 1861, with 1,183 men. The regiment has been in the service fifteen months, marched 2,800 miles, -- five hundred and twenty five by steamboat, ten hundred and nineteen miles by railroad, and twelve hundred and sixty one on foot. We have done military duty in five Southern states -- Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Kentucky, and Tennessee, besides traveling extensively in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

We have been in four severe battles -- Pea Ridge, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>; Co. A, cavalry at Iuka, Corinth, Sept. and the regiment at Chaplin Hill, near Perryville, Kentucky, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 1862. We have had twenty eight men and two commissioned officers killed in battle and died of their wounds. Twenty two men have died in our regimental hospital under care of our own surgeons and nurses; sixteen have died in general and post hospitals, three have died at home, while absent from the regiment on furlough, making the total deaths in the regiment from all causes since it left Aurora, sixty nine. Twenty three commissioned officers have resigned and been dismissed from the service. One commissioned officer has died from disease and two from wounds received in battle. Thirty eight privates have been discharged from service by our regimental surgeons, on account of disability. Forty three have been discharged by general orders and post surgeons while absent from the regiment. Twenty three were mustered out of the service as a band. Nine have been discharged on account of promotions to offices in other regiments. Thirty one have deserted and ought to be shot. Twenty three new recruits have joined since the organization of the regiment, leaving 967 men now belonging to the regiment and doing duty.

Our division is composed of twelve regiments -- four old ones and eight new ones; yet our regiment draws rations for more men than any other regiment in the division. We have one man sick in our regimental hospital today. The following figures show this morning's brigade report of sick in general hospital. The brigade is composed of four regiments, and the following are their figures; 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois has 36 men in general hospital, most of whom are the wounded of the Perryville fight. The 88<sup>th</sup> Illinois has 134 men in general hospital. The 24<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin has 135 men in general hospital, and the 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan has 120 men in same.

I have been quite minute and particular, thinking that you and your readers might desire to know just how the thing stood. I am happy to add, that there never was a time since the organization of the regiment, when the men were any more

healthy or happy than today. They are a noble set of fellows, and determined to stand to the last man to enforce Lincoln's proclamation and restore the Union. We have plenty to eat, drink, and wear, and the paymaster is counting out the greenbacks to the boys while I am writing. We are happy notwithstanding we are soldiers and in the woods.

Tattle Tale.

*AB, 1-1-1863*

LETTER FROM NASHVILLE

Camp on Mill Creek,  
Six Miles from Nashville  
December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1862

Editor Beacon; There is but little news in the camp of “the old six and thirty” that is reliable, but there are plenty of rumors, most of which are entirely reliable. There are skirmishes on our front nearly every day; foraging trains and scouting parties are having lively times. There was sharp artillery and musketry firing on our left this afternoon and evening, but it has become so common that it makes but little excitement among the old soldiers, who have been at Pea Ridge, Corinth, Chaplin Hills and have skirmished with the rebels almost every day for weeks, and have got used to the roar of cannon, the bursting of shell and the peculiar whiz of the Minnie ball.

We have just received full accounts of the repulse at Fredericksburg, and it casts a shade of gloom over the whole army. It is natural for men in our position to reflect that our turn may come next. We think the thing was a big failure, and that it was a costly one, the thousands of brave men who fell on that eventful day are melancholy witnesses.

I see in the Beacon of the 11<sup>th</sup>, that your wide awake correspondent, Tattle Tale, predicts an immediate forward movement, and his mind is evidently loaded with big events, which are portentous in their results, and which are going to settle the fate of rebeldom between here and the Gulf in double quick time, and in a summary manner. I must confess that “I don’t see it.” – The only advance that we have made since that letter was written, was to fall back one mile; and with my unpracticed eyes I can see no indications of a march further into Dixie than we are at present. I am no prophet, but I think I can tell with considerable accuracy when this army will go south, and that is when the General Commanding the department gets good ready, and not before. Till then speculations and predictions are useless.

The health of our boys is excellent; there are only two cases in the hospital. Our Surgeons, Drs. Young and Pierce will have to resign and come home, or they will get out of practice. But few of the boys wounded at Perryville have returned to the regiment. There are several of them detailed at Louisville as nurses and assistants. Captain Frank Campbell and Lieutenant Geo. P. Douglas of Company B, received their new commissions a few days since. In the evening the officers of

the regiment assembled at regimental headquarters to congratulate them on their promotions. They are both worthy young men, have made good officers, and will honor their new positions. The boys of this company have presented Lieutenant Douglas with an elegant sword, belt, sash and pair of shoulder straps, as a testimony of their respect for him on his retiring from the position of Orderly Sergeant. The presentation speech was made by our Chaplain, Mr. Haigh, and was happily responded to by the recipient.

A good joke is told in camp on one of our Lieutenants, who is an ardent democrat, and who says that his politics is the only thing he has to be proud of. We were in the surgeon's tent a morning or two since with a knot of other officers, and in the course of conversation spoke of his favorite doctrine, Popular Sovereignty. Someone asked him what that was, when a sober steady old joker from the right of the regiment said, that he did not know what it had become now, but when it was first invented it was in a *liquid state*, and was carried in small bottles. The crowd burst into a roar, and the little Democrat was obliged to give in beat.

The railroad regiment is camped about a mile from us. We see them frequently. The boys from Fox River, as far as I know are in good health and spirits. As I have to get up before daylight to reveille, and it is getting late, I must close. When anything turns up worthy of notice I will write again.

Bill.

AB, 1-8-1863

#### LETTERS FROM THE ARMY.

Holly Springs, Miss.  
Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1862

Eds. Beacon ; -- During the past four days events of considerable interest have been transpiring in this region. The Army of The Tennessee has been ordered to make a grand forward movement *backwards*. In other words we are moving northward.

Where we are going and what is to be done is known only to the initiated. Undoubtedly we are making a grand strategic movement calculated to bag General Bragg with his entire command. Be that as it may, I am prepared to certify that our communication with the north has been cut off several days. Our supplies have been stopped as a matter of course, and last, though not least, six thousand rebel cavalry, command by Gen. Van Dorn, on the 20<sup>th</sup> inst. made a successful charge into Holley Springs capturing an immense amount of government property, estimated by some as significant. Also nineteen hundred prisoners, among which

are six companies of the 101<sup>st</sup> Illinois. Our Company, A, Cavalry, 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois lost 17 men prisoners. They had been sent by Gen. Hamilton to this place for horses, and arrived just in time to be taken. They were all paroled and their friends will hear from them next from Benton Barracks, Mo. most probably.

The post was commanded by Col. Murphy of West Point whom the whole army knows to be an imbecile old wretch, incompetent of commanding even a company. This is not the first great expense he has been to Uncle Samuel, for at Iuka, when our troops evacuated that place – before the battle – he was left in charge of the commissary stores, and permitted them to fall into Price's hands when they could have easily have been burned instead.

Holley Springs is so situated that it could have easily been defended. Murphy knew the night before the attack that a large rebel force was close at hand. He could easily have had three thousand reinforcements by midnight. The streets could have barricaded with cotton bales. But what did he do? Nothing. No pickets or guards were posted. No resistance offered and today on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of Dec. 1862, our scattered ----- and taken prisoners. Two hundred of cars were destroyed; -----After paroling the prisoners and stealing all the horses, -----. From here they went to Coldwater, (on the Miss. Central R.R.) where less than one regiment of our troops were stationed. After being repulsed in three charges, they gave up the job. Last night the boys were bound to burn Holley Springs – what remains of it – but were prevented through the prompt action of Gen. Hamilton. The following are the names of the boys of Company A cavalry, 36<sup>th</sup> Reg't that were taken prisoner.

Sergeant Douglas, Sar'gt Jerome Mariett, Corp. John C. Goodwin, Sarg't James Serby, privates Fred Elderkin, Odell, Richard Larkin, Wm. Fox, E. Newell, Tucker, Sabrook, Benton, James Barber, Allen Mowrey, Nicholas Hettinger, Kirkpatrick, James Allen.

Mark Finnegan.

(many lines of this account are illegible)

*EG, 1-14-1863*

ARMY CORRESPONDENCE

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILL. REG.

Camp on Mill Creek, near Nashville,  
December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1862.

Editor Gazette:

In looking over the columns of the Gazette of Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, my eye fell upon the very “gloomy” letter of Prof. Braden, of the 127<sup>th</sup> Ills. I presume that what he says in winding it up is true, “that he has not too highly colored it,” but that all are true facts, yet I must confess that I could not help smiling at what he calls the very severe treatment they have met with. But if he or they commence now to complain, what will be the state of their minds ten or fifteen months from now after marching as we have over the greater portion of five different States, enduring untold hardships, going day after day without even the half rations of hard bread and side pork Uncle Sam allows us, surrounded upon all sides by enemies so far from home and railroads, that our letters, one of a soldier’s delights, could not reach us making forced marches, indeed we marched at one time fifty eight miles on the strength of one cup of coffee, unground and without sugar in the meantime --- ---- -- ---- which, we counter marched nights to get our position for the next day’s fight, and in all the three days getting not one warm meal, marching through rain and mud, wading streams, climbing hills, going part of the time without tents or blankets, &c. &c. I might go on and fill this sheet with a list of the hardships undergone by the old “36<sup>th</sup>” were I so disposed, but some might think I was finding fault or getting “gloomy,” which is far from the case, or from me to try and dishearten any one, for I think now, that we should all work, yea, let us all put our shoulder to the wheel of the great war chariot, and I am sure we can and soon will crush our enemies beneath it. Let us be cheerful, forebear to find fault with those over us, ever if they sometimes be in the wrong, for by so doing, we discourage other and we all know a discouraged soldier soon becomes disheartened and sick, he soon finds a soldiers grave.

Why is it, some may ask, that the 36<sup>th</sup> are, and have been, so remarkably healthy? I think it is owing in a great measure to their happy way of always looking on the bright side of life. We are well aware that we are in Uncle Sam’s employ, and that we swore in for three years, unless sooner discharged. Now we say if we get out any sooner, why it is our good luck, and if we are obliged to stay in the full term, we will make the best of it, and no matter how muddy the road or heavy the load, you can always hear laughs, songs and jokes in the ranks of the 36<sup>th</sup>, and it is very seldom that one of the boys “fall out” from fatigue, but some of them quite often fall out just before we go into camp, and go off from one to two miles from the road, but soon after you can see them come slyly into camp loaded with chickens, geese, turkeys, or potatoes, or something for the stomach’s sake.

The other regiments in our Brigade say, that it matters not whether the 36<sup>th</sup> march in the rear or front, we are sure to always get into camp first, have our guns stacked and the rails all “confiscated,” before they “break ranks.” Why is this?

Simply because we keep closed up, come into line and stack our guns promptly, "break ranks," and make a break for rails the first thing. Another very good reason given for our health no doubt is this; since leaving Rienzi, we have closely confined ourselves to army rations, buying very few pies and trash that have made the new troops with us sick, but the reason to be given for this is that we had no money. Again we have a great many drills and unless one of us happen to be quite sick, are obliged to go, which proves very beneficial and the boys always come from them with a shout.

But, doubtless your numerous readers will think I am praising the 36<sup>th</sup> more than it deserves, but I am stating facts, and trying to prove that it is far better for us all to be cheerful and never despair, never look or act disheartened in the presence of our brother soldiers, and above all, if we feel so, let us forebear to harass our friends at home with it, causing them uneasiness in our behalf. I am extremely sorry that the 127<sup>th</sup> have had to endure such hardships in receiving the first few lessons in a soldier's life, and I am sure that most of them are bound to surmount every obstacle, but I think it has a bad effect for one to harbor "gloomy thoughts." Remember that Washington always wore a serene smile upon his countenance, and a pleasant word for all, hence his power.

It seems as though, to be sure, that there are a great many things to discourage us at the present time. Burnside's severe repulse, and the reverses that the Army of the Potomac have all along met with. But is not the news from Grant encouraging? Has not Gen. Blunt met with a decided success in Arkansas? Is not renowned old Ben Butler doing a glorious work? And the time for the enforcement of the President's Proclamation is just upon us, why should we despair? The old adage is "that it is the darkest just before the day," and I sincerely believe, that a glorious day of liberty is just about to dawn. That soon the clarion notes of the American Eagle will be heard all over the south and the glorious old Stars and Stripes will be let loose to the breeze over every town and city now invaded by the rebel hordes. Let us take fresh courage, putting our trust in a just God, who will work out all in his own good time. There is no news of importance to communicate from this department. The 36<sup>th</sup> and the 88<sup>th</sup> with two other regiments just came in from a reconnaissance. They drove in the rebel pickets and succeeded in filling all the wagons they took out for forage without molestation. The rebels are reported to be very strong in front, and soon you may hear stirring news from us. Captain Sherman and the boys are well. We look anxiously every week for the Gazette, but for some reason very few copies reach us. Co. B cavalry boys, also make the same complaint. They are at present doing escort duty to Gen. Jeff C. Davis, and have lately been newly armed with the Burnside rifle of which they are very proud, as well they might be, for they are a very nice arm. They all remain well.

Yours, &c. J. C. D.  
36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vols.

**Advanced upon Murfreesboro, Tennessee, December 26-30, 1862**

The new Union departmental commander was William S. Rosecrans, known affectionately to the men as "Old Rosey." Taking advantage of a brief break in the weather right after Christmas, Rosecrans decided to move his army south of Nashville and crush Braxton Bragg once and for all. Bragg's army had encamped at Murfreesboro, just thirty eight miles down the Nashville turnpike, with Stones River meandering through his lines.

During the advance, the weather had once again turned bitter. Rain, mixed with sleet, pelted the 36<sup>th</sup> as it trudged through the frozen muck.

*EG, 1-7-1863*

THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

A report comes from Aurora that the 36<sup>th</sup> is nearly annihilated. On the other hand we have the following dispatch from Gen. Mitchel:

Nashville, Jan. 5, 1863.

To H. Sherman---

Thirty-Sixth Ill. are at Murfreesboro. Capt. George Sherman is not hurt.

Robt. B. Mitchell,  
Brig. Gen. Commanding.

## **Battle of Stones River, December 30-31, 1862 and January 1-3, 1863**

Rosecrans had planned a surprise attack on Bragg's right; Bragg had planned a surprise attack on Rosecrans' right. If both had got under way at the same time, the two great armies might have spun around each other like a revolving door. As it was, "Old Rosey" paused on that morning of the 31<sup>st</sup> to let his men have breakfast, and the Confederates struck first. Whooping the rebel yell, they came out of the dripping cedar forests like a human hurricane. The Chaplain of the 36<sup>th</sup> later wrote that the scene was "as grand and awful as anything I ever expect to witness until the day of judgment."

It was Cheatham's division of Polk's corps that fell upon the Fox River boys and other Yankee regiments that held the line near the Harding House, not far from the old brick kiln. His men hit hard, but in piece meal and uncoordinated fashion. Five regiments from Alabama and one from Louisiana pushed back the 25<sup>th</sup> Illinois and the 81<sup>st</sup> Indiana. Colonel Thomas Williams of the 25<sup>th</sup> tried to rally his men but fell dead with his colors in his hands. The 8<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin artillery battery rumbled forward to stem the gray tide, their commander in turn falling dead across one of his own guns.

When the 25<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin, a regiment of raw recruits, broke and ran with the first volley, the 36<sup>th</sup> was left with its flank exposed. The Fox River boys nonetheless stood their ground and waited until the rebels were within fifty yards before they fired right into the faces of the 19<sup>th</sup> Alabama. For one horrifying half hour the two regiments faced each other in the open, nothing between them but the smoke of battle and their own bullets. The arrival of two Yankee artillery batteries ended the deadly embrace. The Alabamians began to waver. Seizing the moment, Nicholas Greusel ordered the 36<sup>th</sup> to charge with the bayonet. The regiment went forward with a shout, chasing the Confederates down the slope they had previously occupied, and into the cornfield.

Brigadier General Joshua Sill, commanding the brigade in Sheridan's division of which the 36<sup>th</sup> was a part, had been struck down by a rebel bullet that tore into his lip and buried itself in his brain. Greusel then took command of the brigade and Miller became the new commander of the 36<sup>th</sup>. It was only 8 a.m.

Slowly, over a distance of two miles, the entire union front was forced to pivot back on itself until it stood nearly 90 degrees in relation to where it started, occupying a column running north and south, roughly parallel to the Nashville

turnpike, rather than the original line running west from it.

It was during this withdrawal, conducted with great skill by General Sheridan, that Major Miller was wounded and taken prisoner of war near the Harding House, and Captain Porter Olson from Newark, Illinois took command of the regiment. Meeting with Sheridan, Olson informed him that he had only 140 fighting effectives left and that he was out of ammunition. Forty men had been killed, 150 wounded and 15 missing. Sheridan gave him permission to fall out of the battle line and replenish his cartridge boxes. It was 10 a.m.

What was left of the 36<sup>th</sup> did not make it back into line until 2 p.m., having managed somehow to turn up some ammunition. It then helped to hold the Yankee left near the turnpike by the railroad embankment, coming under deadly Confederate artillery fire.

On the first day of the New Year, there was no fighting. Bragg thought he had whipped the Union Army and confidently waited for it to retreat. But it did not do so. The 36<sup>th</sup> spent New Years Day throwing up make shift barricades of log and stone near Sheridan's headquarters along the turnpike, waiting for an attack that did not come.

Finally, late in the afternoon of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January, Bragg ordered a desperate frontal assault across Stones River on the other side of the turnpike. In forty minutes, 2,000 Confederates fell, raked by the masked fire of 58 Union artillery pieces. The battle of Stones River was over.

The casualties of the regiment were devastating. Stones River was to be the costliest battle of the war for the regiment and for the State of Illinois. In fact, no battle of the entire war produced a higher proportion of losses for either side engaged, each losing about a third. Wintry Stones River claimed 13,000 Union and 10,000 Confederate casualties.

*AB, 1-8-1863*

### THE 36<sup>th</sup> IN THE RECENT FIGHT.

By dispatch from Col. Greusel, dated on Monday last, we learn the sad intelligence that only 230 men and 12 officers were left fit for duty. From the best information we can get, we believe that 620 men went into the engagement. It is known that Major Silas Miller, Capt. Orv. B. Merrill, Capt. Campbell and Lieut. Douglas were wounded and taken prisoners. It is also known that Col. Greusel, Capt. Sherer, Lieut. Frank Reynolds, also Lieut. J. B. Watkins of the 79<sup>th</sup> and of Gen. Sill's Staff, are safe. We have no other news from our boys of the 36<sup>th</sup>, or of the other regiments engaged in the battle. It will be a week before a full list of the

killed, wounded and missing, can be given. The Railroad regiment, 89<sup>th</sup> Illinois had no casualties up to December 28<sup>th</sup>. In the "right wing" says a correspondent, "I saw the 27<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 42<sup>nd</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup>, 88<sup>th</sup>, 51<sup>st</sup>, 84<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 89<sup>th</sup>, 78<sup>th</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Illinois regiments." Col. Roberts of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Illinois regiment (who was reported killed) commanded a brigade, composed of the 47<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 51<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Illinois in Sheridan's Division.

*EG, 1-14-1863*

THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 4, 1863

Dear Father:

You may feel a little anxious about me as I have not written to you for several days, but the reason was I had no opportunity before since Christmas, as the day after, we left our camp on Mill Creek and started for Murfreesboro, you probably know this already. Well, we skirmished all the way after we started, driving the rebel cavalry before us. Sunday we lay over thirteen miles from Murfreesboro. Monday we started early, and that night camped within seven miles of Murfreesboro. Tuesday we advanced about three miles, when we came in contact with a large rebel force, we were drawn up in line of battle and our skirmishers and artillery firing quite sharp. About three o'clock our company was ordered out to relieve company B who had been skirmishing nearly all day. We advanced, (I was in the ranks with a gun) until we came up with company B, when we were ordered to lay down and commence firing at the rebels who were quite thick in the woods just opposite. We lay there loading and firing for about three hours when we were relieved by company C, and we went back to the regiment and laid down to sleep. This day, Tuesday, we had one man wounded, M. L. Townsend, and two killed, Henry Clayson and Fred Burmaster. Next morning early, we were attacked by a whole brigade of rebels which we succeeded in routing, but they were reinforced by other brigades and we were compelled to fall back about a mile leaving our dead and wounded on the field, and took another position which we still occupy. Our loss is very heavy, the killed in company A are Fred Burmaster, Clayson Fenner and Gibbs; the wounded are Lt. Wakeman in the arm and a prisoner, Alick Lynd in the hand, Alick Robinson in the breast and a prisoner, probably dead. Aldrich in the shoulder, and a prisoner; Bent Rowland very slightly in the neck; Leroy Salisbury very slightly in the leg; C. A. Brown wound in the leg and missing.

Dean in the leg and also a prisoner.

Dunekles in the leg       “

Flood in the arm “  
Henderson in the breast “  
Hewitt in the back “  
Johnson in the leg “  
Kilbourn, wounded in finger.  
J. H. Miner in the hand, taken prisoner.  
Murus, in the face “  
Stanton in the leg “  
Sabine in the leg “  
Theamer in foot ‘  
Townsend in the thigh “  
White in the leg “

Missing, John Scott, A. Shaw and E. H. Robinson.

I left the battlefield this morning to bring in the mail and shall start back early tomorrow. It is estimated that our regiment's loss is over 250 men. Gen. Sill commanding our Brigade was killed early in the fight. Col. Greusel has command now. Major Miller, of our regiment was wounded.

A great deal of blood has been spilt, and a great deal more will be before we take Murfreesboro. This is probably the hardest battle of the war. But good bye, I will write you in full in a few days.

Frank Raymond.

*AB, 1-15-1863*

## THE MURFREESBORO FIGHT

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### THE SECOND DAY

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The sun had not risen on Wednesday morning when the firing commenced on the right. The 1<sup>st</sup> Missouri Battery, Capt. Eascock, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Illinois, Capt. Houghtaling, shelled the rebels out of a point of woods in front of Sheridan's division, which now slightly advanced. The enemy immediately threw himself upon Sheridan with terrible energy, but was thrice repulsed. Again he advanced with larger number and greater desperation than before, and Sheridan's men were for a moment compelled to give ground. It was for a moment, however, the brave

and noble Sill, assisted by other daring officers, soon rallied the retiring troops; the flashing banner of the stars once advanced, and although Sill purchased the victory with his life, the rebels were repulsed and driven from this quarter of the field.

It was a few minutes after eight when this occurred, and at the same time the sun broke through some cold looking clouds, and flashed a clear bright light over the field!

There had not elapsed even time to remove the body of the dead General Sill, when all attention was directed to the extreme right. Three divisions of the enemy – McCown's, Caliborne's and Cheatham's – has advanced in massive columns and charged impetuously upon Johnson, and Davis. A portion of infantry in Johnson's division immediately broke – almost, indeed, before they had taken their arms from the stack – and one of the batteries, Edgerton's, was taken before it had fired the third round. Poor Edgerton ! it was not his fault. A truer, better, braver young man is seldom found than he. It was his greatest ambition to take part in a battle; and I remember well how often and how earnestly he deplored that separation from the old third division which prevented him from taking part in the battle of Perryville. His hour came at last; it found him ready, but those upon whom he had a right to rely to give him timely notice of the enemy's arrival, failed to do so; and ere his guns could be loaded and discharged three times, the rebel bayonets, had swept away his men, and he fell wounded and bleeding into the hands of the foe.

The gallant and earnest Captain Simonson fought like a hero, as he is, and brought off all but two of his guns.

Captain Goodspeed strenuously endeavored, after firing several rounds, to save his cannon, but could only succeed in getting away with two of them.

Gen. Kirke, of Illinois, commanding one of the brigades in Johnson's division, was severely wounded while endeavoring to rally his regiment; the enemy succeeded in getting the right flank completely hemmed in; a large number of officers of every grade were shot down while standing almost at the muzzle of the rebel muskets; the brigades and regiments rushed upon one another in disgraceful disorder, and the rout of the division became irrevitable and total.

I suppose I shall raise a storm about my head for saying so, but I cannot, from all that I have heard, come to any other conclusion than that the right wing of our army was completely surprised, and that, too, under circumstances that should have rendered it particularly careful and vigilant. Whether Gen. McCook or Gen. Johnson is to blame for this, and impartial investigation will hereafter determine. At present the sentiment of the entire army is extremely hostile to both; and imagine it will not be many days before there are important changes in the leadership of the 14<sup>th</sup> army corps.

The right of Davis' division, assailed at the same time as Johnson's gave

way simultaneously and the route of the remainder seemed to follow as a matter of course.

This left to General Sheridan the task of repelling the hitherto successful onset of the foe. Never did man labor more faithfully than he to perform his task and never was a leader more seconded by his soldiers. His division formed a kind of pivot upon which the broken right wing turned in its flight, and its perilous condition can easily be imagined, when the flight of Davis' division left it without any protection from the triumphant enemy, who now swarmed upon it from its front and right flank. But it fought until a fourth of its number lay bleeding and dying upon the field, and until both remaining commanders, Col. Roberts and Col. Schaeffer, had met with the same fate as General Sill. Then it gave way, and as in almost every instance of the kind, retreat was changed into route, only less complete than that of the troops of Johnson and Davis.

All these divisions were now hurled back together into the immense series of cedar thickets which skirt the turnpike, and extend far over the right. Brigade after brigade, battery after battery from Palmer's, Negley's and Rousseau's divisions were sent into the midst of the thickets to check the progress of the foe and rally the fugitives; but all in turn were either crushed outright by the flying crowds, broken by the impetuosity of the foe, and put to confused flight, or compelled to retire and extricate themselves in the best manner that seemed to offer.

The history of the combat in these dark thickets will never be known. No man could see even the whole of his own regiment, and no one will ever be able to tell who they were that fought the bravest, and they who proved recreant to their trust. I know to that there was shown by many officers and regiments as lofty a heroism as that which distinguished the immortalized the followers of Godfrey or the Cid.

But in spite of heroism and devotion; in spite of desperate struggles which marked every fresh advance of the foe; in spite of an awful sacrifice of life on the part of officers and soldiers of the Union army, the rebels still steadily pushed onward and came nearer to the turnpike.

Nearly two miles and a half the right wing of our army had been driven, and a faintness of heart came over me as the destruction of our whole army seemed to stare us in the face.

But the word went forth from Rosecrans, the flower of the west wing and the center were hurried over toward the right, and massed, rank behind rank, in an array of imposing grandeur, along the turnpike, and facing to the woods, through which, the rebels were advancing.

The scene at this time was grand and awful as anything that I ever expect to witness until the day of judgment. In the midst and upon the highest point of the somewhat elevated space, being between the turnpike and the railroad, and forming

the key to our position. Let the rebels once obtain possession of it, and of the immense train of wagons parked along the turnpike and the Union army was inevitably ruined. Even its lines of retreat would be cut off, and nothing would save it from utter route, slaughter, capture.

And yet each minute it became more and more plainly evident that all the reinforcements which had been hurried into the woods to sustain and rally the broken right wing and check the progress of the enemy in that direction, had proved inadequate to the task, and had in turn been overthrown by the great mass which was struggling in extricable disorder through the woods. Such sounds as preceded from that gloomy forest of pines and cedars were enough to appal with terror the stoutest hearts. The roar of cannon, the crashing of shot through the trees, the whizzing and bursting of shell, the uninterrupted rattle of thirty thousand muskets, all mingled in one prolonged and tremendous volume of sound, as though all the thunders of heaven had been rolled together, and each individual burst of celestial artillery had been rendered perpetual. Above it all could be heard the wild cheers of the traitorous hosts, as body after body of our troops gave way and were pushed back toward the turnpike.

Nearer and nearer came the storm; louder and louder sounded the tumult of the battle. The immense train of wagons parked along the road suddenly seem instinct with life, and every species of any vehicle proceeded by frightened mules and horses rolled and rattled away pell mell in an opposite direction from that which the victorious foe was pressing onward. The shouts and cries of the terrified teamsters urging their teams to the top of their speed were now mingled with the billows of sound which swayed and surged over the field.

Everything now depends upon the regiments and batteries which the genius of Rosecrans had massed along the turnpike to receive the enemy when he should emerge from the woods in pursuit of our broken and flying battalion. Suddenly the route became visible, and a crowd of ten thousand fugitives, representing every possible phase of wild and uncontrollable disorder, burst from the cedar thickets and rushed into the open space between them and the turnpike. Amongst them all, perhaps no half dozen members of the same regiment could have been found together. Thick and fast the bullets of the enemy fell among them, and scores were shot down; but still the number increased by reason of the fresh crowds which burst every moment from the thickets. It was with the greatest difficulty that some of the regiments which had been massed together as a sort of a forlorn hope, to withstand, and if possible drive back the victorious cohorts of treason, could prevent their ranks from being crushed or broken by the mass of fugitives.

From my position upon the elevated ground between the railroad and turnpike, I could view the whole scene; and with an intensity of interest and tumultuous emotions which I have no language to express, I watched for the result

when the desperate soldiers of the rebellion should enter the open space. A tempest of iron was whistling about my head; but for the first time since I began to participate in the transaction of this fearful war, they whistled and burst unheeded. I made no pretensions to extraordinary physical courage. He who says that amid the horrors of a battle he experiences no feelings of awe, and sometimes shrinking awe is a falsifier, an idiot or a madman. But at this time I could not have retired, even had I been so inclined. My feet were rooted to the spot; my gaze was fascinated and fixed in quarter where I expected the enemy to appear; and had an earthquake rent the earth before me, I could not have moved from the spot, until I knew from the testimony of my own eyesight, whether or no the troops upon whom rested the last hope of the Union army were like the rest, to be beaten and overthrown. It was not in consequence of superior physical courage that I remained there, but of the mental impossibility of doing otherwise.

The flower of our troops were ranged in order here; and I had no fears for the result, unless one of those unaccountable panics which sometimes ruins an army of veterans, should seize upon our yet unbroken battalions. Yet there were men not liable to panic – men whose lofty courage and devotion to their country's cause, overcame and extinguished fear. Colonel Loomis was there with his immortal 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Battery, and there was Stokes, with the guns and equipments furnished by the Chicago Board of Trade; and Mendenhall and Gunther; with their regular artillery; and the troops, led by Gen. Wood, comprising some of the finest in the service; and three famous brigades belonging to the old third division, (the 9<sup>th</sup>, the 17<sup>th</sup>, and the regulars,) which the daring valor of Rousseau, assisted by the unflinching courage Col. Setiben of the 28<sup>th</sup> Indiana, commanding the 9<sup>th</sup> brigade, and by the splendid abilities of Col. John Beatty, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ohio commanding the 17<sup>th</sup>, had extricated from the woods into which they had been sent to check the progress of the enemy, in an unbroken and undemoralized condition – a result which, to one who knows something of the nature of that fearful combat in the woods, seems little short of miraculous. Other illustrious corps were there also, whose patriotism and courage I should be glad, even at this early day, to celebrate, if one individual could have known and observed them all. Their zeal and sacrifices will yet be known and appreciated by a grateful nation.

With cool, calm courage, General Crittenden awaited the coming storm; and, conspicuous among all the rest, was the well built form of the Commanding General, his countenance unmoved by the tumult around him, and his thoughtful, and animated features, expressed a high and patriotic hope, which acted like an inspiration upon everyone that beheld him. As he cast his eye over the grand array which he had mustered to repel the foe, he already felt himself master of the situation.

At last the long lines of the enemy emerged from the woods, rank behind rank, and with a demonic yell, intended to strike into the souls of the "Yankees" who stood before them, and charged with tearful energy almost to the very muzzles of the cannon whose dark mouths yawned upon them.

A dazzling sheet of flame burst from the ranks of the Union forces. An awful roar shook the earth, a crash rent the atmosphere. The foremost lines of the rebel hosts were literally swept from the field, and seemed to melt away like snow flakes before a flame; and then both armies were enveloped in a vast cloud of smoke which hid everything from the eye.

In the still visible ground between the pike and the railroad, the tumult redoubled. Not knowing what would be the result of the strife which was raging under the great canopy of smoke that concealed the combatants, the flight of those in charge of wagons and ambulances became still more rapid and disordered. Thousands of fugitives from the broken right wing mingled with the teams; and frequently a mass of men, horses and wagons would be crushed and ground together. Every conceivable form of deadly missile whizzed and whirled and burst among the crowd, and terror and dismay ruled uncontrollably. The whole disordered mass rushed down as fast as possible toward the river, into which it plunged, pushing and struggling to the other side.

The combat under that great cloud of smoke was somewhat similar to that in the woods. No one knows exactly what occurred. There was a shout, a charge, a rash of fire, a recoil, and then all, for a time, disappeared. For ten minutes the thunder of battle burst forth from the cloud. When our battalions advanced they found no rebels between the woods and the turnpike, except the dead, the dying and the disabled. There were hundreds of these, and their blood soaked and reddened the ground. Since the annihilation of the "Old Guard" in their charge at Waterloo, there has probably not been an instance of so great a slaughter in so short a time as during this repulse of the rebel left at Murfreesboro; and it will hereafter be celebrated in history as much as is the fiery combat which crushed forever the power and prospects of Napoleon.

We have as yet received no detailed account of the casualties to the 36<sup>th</sup> and other regiments from this neighborhood, engaged in the fight at Murfreesboro; A list has been mailed to us, and soon as received will be published.

We learn incidentally that David Downer and George Merrill, of company E, 36<sup>th</sup> regiment, (Bristol) were killed and that Jas. Beard, of the same company, was slightly wounded. There is a report that Capt. Hobbs, of Co. E, and Lieut. Peter Douglas, of Co. B, were killed, but we can trace the rumor to no reliable source. We hardly think it is true, else some mention would have been made of it in the telegrams received by friends in this neighborhood.

LATER. – From letters received on Wednesday we learn a few additional particulars concerning the 36<sup>th</sup>. The news of the death of Lieut. Peter Douglas, of company B, is confirmed. The particulars of his death are not related, but it is presumed that he fell at the time Major Cap. Campbell was wounded and taken prisoners. He was the first man that enlisted in Aurora, and was as brave and generous hearted a man as ever lived. Sergeant McCloy, of company B, was killed, and on the morning of the third day of the fight, there had been thirty men and officers of company B killed, wounded and missing. On that morning only fourteen of the whole regiment could be mustered, but since the fight over 300 men have been gathered together. They were scattered in the terrible charge made against the right wing on the second day's fight. Lieut. Wm. H. Clark, of Bristol, is again wounded, and Capt. Hobbs, of the same company is taken prisoner, and it is reported that he is wounded. Capt. Olson, of Lisbon, is wounded and a prisoner, and Lieut. Wakeman is wounded but in the Federal hospital. Assistant Surgeon Pierce and Chaplain Haigh are prisoners. Wm. Blakeslee of Aurora, was slightly wounded. We have no additional news from the 89<sup>th</sup>. Their loss is believed to be slight. The 12d was in the fight, but we have seen no list of casualties. We have received no account of the killed and wounded in the 13<sup>th</sup> regiment at Vicksburg. There is a report that Sergeant Jesse Pierce of company H is killed, but it needs confirmation. We shall, in a day or two, have a complete list from our correspondents, and as soon as received we shall print them.

*WS, 1-21-1863*

LOSSES IN COMPANY A, 36<sup>th</sup> ILL. REGIMENT

Richmond, Jan. 15, 1863.

EDITOR WOODSTOCK SENTINEL :

Mr. H. Crossen, of this town, received a letter from the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment, from which we copy the following:

P. W.

BATTLE FIELD BEFORE MURFREESBORO, TENN.,  
JANUARY 3d, 1863.

Dear Friends:

I send you these few lines to let you know I am alive as yet. Our Regiment went into the field with 650 men on Wednesday last. In the morning ours was the first to open the ball. We came out with 200.

Our Richmond boys have suffered this time. Henry Clayson, killed; Thomas

Fenner, killed; Moses T. Gibbs, killed. Lieut. S. H. Wakeman, wounded, and in the hands of the enemy. Charles Brown, wounded in the hand. Isaac N. Miner, wounded in the hand. Duportal Sampson is back at Nashville, in the hospital, sick. I don't know how he is.

Our Company (A) lost 25 killed and wounded. I got a slight scratch on the back of the hand. The ball passed over taking a little of the flesh with it. The coat on my back was riddled in six places. I don't know how in God's name any of us came out alive.

We fought a whole brigade without any support. The 24<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin regiment ran after they fired the first volley.

Mr. T. was not in the fight. He never came up to the regiment. He did the same thing at Pea Ridge and Perryville, and here the cowardly dog has not shown himself to the regiment yet. Hiss him if he ever goes back to Richmond. We are still fighting. I don't know how we may come out. I write this in the entrenchments, that you may not be uneasy about me. I hope I will come out all safe with the help of God.

Yours Truly, H. Duffy.

*GCH, 1-21-1863*

### THE OLD 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT

This noble old regiment, the pride of the counties from which it was formed, made a noble record at the battle of Murfreesboro. The names of her dead heroes, and the list of her wounded speak in trumpet tones of her bravery and soldierly qualities. She stands as a bulwark between our dearest rights and the advance of the rebel hordes. She beats back the rebel crew at every advance, and her colors nobly float with no stain of dishonor upon them. When the smoke of the battle cleared away, we knew we should hear words of cheer and deeds of noble daring and bravery, and each day now heralds her glory and fame. Brave old 36<sup>th</sup>, noble heroes, most gallantly have you proven your title to valor and to praise. She was the first to confront the enemy and the last to leave the field.

Mr. Perkins, a resident of this county, who accompanied the box, containing the "Christmas Dinner," for Co. G., was at Murfreesboro during the battle. He gives the most graphic account of the battle, and contradicts, in the most emphatic manner, the statement of the correspondent of the *Chicago Tribune*, in relation to the 88<sup>th</sup> Regiment, being the last regiment to fall back. He asserts in the most positive terms that the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment was the last to leave the field and the

statement of Captain Longworth, below given, fully substantiates this fact. Mr. Perkins, who witnessed the battle, speaks of the engagement as most terrific, and says the 36<sup>th</sup> held its ground, and battled back the advancing hordes of the enemy, until they were overwhelmed and forced to fight a whole brigade, under the lead of General Bragg himself. We have been kindly permitted to make extracts from a letter from Capt. Longworth, written to his father in this city. He says:

It was a miracle that any of us escaped being taken prisoners, they were within 8 paces of us when I told the boys to save themselves as best they could and we broke and run for dear life. I attempted to rally the boys at the hospital, but they were too close to us, and we broke again and went to the timber and formed there and fell back in good order. Our wounded are doing well under the care of our Surgeons, Dr. Pierce – the Boys give him great credit for staying and taking such good care of them. He was taken prisoner when we had to fall back and leave the hospital. Our boys did all that human beings could do to stop the hordes that pressed so but they were too strong for us and we were compelled to give way. We left 46 of the old 36<sup>th</sup> dead on the field, and have over 160 wounded out of 500 that we took into action. So you see we did some good fighting, we drove them off the hill with heavy loss at the point of the bayonet, when they rallied again and old “Bragg” led the charge in person.

I don't think we have disgraced “Old Grundy” and I hope I have not disgraced my parents and friends. I will let the “Boys” speak for me, I can vouch for them every time. Our loss is very heavy, Sheridan's division alone lost over 1,700 men. He is a bully little fellow and so is Rosencrans.

The following is a list of those killed and wounded in company G.

Harvey D. Norton, killed.  
David M. Vanderson, killed.  
Z. F. Hulse, killed.  
Wm. Gould, dangerously wounded.  
Peter Bradt, severely in leg.  
Wilber Rossman, severely in hip.  
Geo. W. Moody, severely broken leg.  
Frank Severns, severely in leg.  
Frank Small, slightly in foot.  
Peter Buchanan, slightly in leg.  
Daniel Kennedy, slightly in arm.  
Daniel Hart, slightly in thigh.  
J. H. Brown, slightly in neck.  
R. B. Horrie, slightly in hand.  
M. G. Yarnell, slightly in hand.  
W. C. Champerlain, arm broken.

R. Jordan, severely.

Joseph Herbert, slightly shoulder.

Robt. Jordan and Lieut. Kennedy are taken to Vicksburg.

Wm. Gibson, Ed. Collins, F. W. Hains, David Boyer, Peter Buchanan, A. Prouty and Pat Corkins were taken prisoners and paroled to help take care of our wounded.

### **The Regiment remains at or near Murfreesboro until June, 1863**

### **Transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, 20<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland until October, 1863**

*AB, 1-22-1863*

#### **SOLDIERS PENSIONS**

It is supposed by some that a soldier must be disabled for life, to be entitled to a pension. Not so. If his disability lasts but six months after his discharge, he may have a pension for the six months; a full pension if the disability for that time is total. If only partially disabled, he may have a pension according to the degree that he is disabled, one half, one third, two thirds, &c. The disability may arise from sickness, as well as from wounds. But it must be a genuine case. It must have been contracted while in the service, and in the line of duty. Mark these requirements, they are just and reasonable. The Government has provided generously and with large liberality, for the volunteer, and for his family if he dies.

Heirs of deceased soldiers delay making application for bounty and back pay in order to get information in regard to their claim. This is not necessary. If the death of the husband, son, or brother is known, it is all that is necessary to start with. Make the application, have it on file and this information can be looked up afterwards. These claims are certain to hang a long time in the departments, allowing ample time for all needful investigation before the cases are reached in their order.

AB, 1-22-1863

LETTER FROM COL. GREUSEL.

Headquarters 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 3d Division  
Camp near Murfreesboro, Jan. 7,  
1863

John S. Hall, Esq.; -- *My dear sir*: I have the melancholy duty to perform, one which under any other circumstance is a loss, yes a great loss, but fighting and falling as your son did, is honorable. He fell fighting the enemy of our land, but the loss is great for you my dear friend, but you are not alone; fighting as the 36<sup>th</sup> did, left on all sides by regiments double their number, running to the rear after the first fire, leaving me with my veterans to fight the number that three regiments ought to have fought, and did fight, and finally drove back at the point of the bayonet. Oh had those miserable cowards stood by me for five minutes, many of my poor boys would today be alive to see our triumph over the rebels, but 43 of my brave men paid their last adieu to this world, and will fight no more battles.

Allow me my dear friend, to sympathize with you in your great loss, for George was a brave boy and fought like a man, and all liked him for his kindness and good heart. And if one was ready to die, George was. Always kind to his companions, never using profane language, and always attending to his duty.

My heart overflows and I cannot write more.

I am my dear sir

Ever yours,

N. Greusel,  
Col. Com'dg 1<sup>st</sup> Brig. 3d Div. Right Wing

AB, 1-22-1863

THE KILLED AND WOUNDED AT MURFREESBORO.

The following is a complete list of the casualties in the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment in the fight of December 30 and 31<sup>st</sup>. It comprises the names of those at one hospital under the charge of Assistant Surgeon Pierce, a complete list by Surgeon Young is expected by mail. This list is not full – not one half of the killed and wounded.

DECEMBER 30<sup>th</sup> – KILLED

Henry Clayton, A. 35<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
F. A. Burmaster, A. 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Geo. Munroe, K. 35<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Abram Weaver, B. 88<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Henry Paff, K, 24<sup>th</sup> Wis.

#### WOUNDED

J. F. Young, C, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., wrist.  
Corp. W. H. Blakslee, B, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Leg.  
Harmel Sanders, K, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Thigh.  
Jas. Henry Hogue, K, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Thigh.  
Joseph Leverean, K, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Hand.  
Peter Bradi, G, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Leg.  
Lucien Button, K, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Ankle and knee.  
John Peterson, K, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Hip.  
William Gould, G, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Neck.  
James McCary, K, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Thigh.  
George Lanagae, E, 36<sup>th</sup>, knee.  
Uriah Foster, E 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Thigh.  
Milton Townsend, A, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Leg.  
Henry Haigh, E, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Leg.  
J. N. Miner, A, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Fingers accidental.  
Capt. Geo. W. Smith, A, 88<sup>th</sup> Ill. Left leg.  
Levi L. Drake, E, 88<sup>th</sup> Ill. Foot.  
Eben A. Day, F, 88<sup>th</sup> Ill. Instep.  
Martin H. Watts, E, 88<sup>th</sup> Ill. Right knee.  
Lemuel D Seler, C, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Side and head.

#### DECEMBER 31 – KILLED

Nicholas Meham, E, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Corp. Benedict, D 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Benj. Sawyer, E, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
David VanDusen, G, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
William H. Jones, H, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Richard Spradling, F, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Sergt. Michael Boomer, F, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Jas. Foster, E, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Chas. Wangler, F, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Geo. Lienheart, B, 36<sup>th</sup> ill.  
Geo. S. Hall, K, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Sergt. McLorg, B, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Frank Thompson, B, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.

Allen Stickles, D, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Lorenzo D. Keys, H, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Washington M. Floyd, H, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Augustus Kaston, F, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Thos. Fenner, A, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Moses Gibbs, A, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Zalmon F. Hulse, G, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Samuel Young, D 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
James Thorpe, D, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Corp. Leanord Ellis, I, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Thos Stanton, A, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Joseph Baxter, C, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
W. T. Arthurs, G, 36<sup>th</sup>, Ill.  
D. H. Buchanan, C, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
James Elder, C, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Corp. Orlando Nash, H, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Wm. H. Hutchings, H 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.  
Alvin S. Banker, H, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.

#### WOUNDED

Henry Mullen, E, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., left elbow  
Sergt. Alex Robinson, A, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., back  
Wm. G. Burgett, F, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., back  
Chas. A. Brown, A, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right arm.  
Orrin Wood, K, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., hip.  
William H. Mossman, F, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., shoulder.  
P. VanOrder, F, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., body-died Jan. 1.  
W. Moody, G, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right shoulder.  
Wm. F. Severns, G, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right leg  
Aaron Darnel, E, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., hip.  
Lieut. George P. Douglas, B, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., thigh and leg  
Joel Wagner, E, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., face.  
    Calvin F. Jones, H, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., left side.  
    Fred Baer, F, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., left arm.  
    Chris Batterman, E, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., left leg.  
    Alex F. Henderson, A, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right shoulder.  
    Wilbur F. Roseman, G, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., thigh.  
    Edwin Dopp, F, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right leg.  
    John N. Edgar, C, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right side.  
    John Shuck, C, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right side.  
    Peter Buchanan, G, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., left leg slightly.

Burton Hoyey, K, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., hip.  
 William Van Ohlem, B, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., left leg.  
 Adam Reite, B, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., left leg.  
 John Flod, S, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right elbow.  
 John A. White, A, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., left knee.  
 James H. Woodward, B, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right breast.  
 P. J. VanWicklen, K, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right leg.  
 Thomas Welch, D, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right leg.  
 Alfred Bullard, F, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right leg and shoulder.  
 William Varner, I, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right hip.  
 J. H. Smith, C, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right shoulder.  
 J. B. Sackett, H, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right hip.  
 Myron Harris, H, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right leg.  
 William Curtis, F, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., head.  
 John Rohu, I, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right thigh.  
 Joseph Smith, D, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right side  
 Nelson B. Sherwood, H, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., Head  
 Geo. Merrill, F, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., left side.  
 Cyrus F. Dean, A, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., right leg.  
 Wm. Burgees, F, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., died Jan. 1, 1863.  
 Geo. R. Polleck, K, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., arm and died Jan. 1.  
 Jas. Baird, E, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., died Jan. 1.  
 Cornelius Seward, F, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., died Jan. 1.  
 Robert Archibald, H, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., died Jan. 1.  
 Chas I. Theemer, A, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., ankle.  
 Horace Chittenden, H, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., ankle.

#### ADDITIONAL NAMES OF KILLED AND WOUNDED

Fred H. Burmaster, Henry Clyson, Thomas Turner, Moses H. Gibbs, Thos. Starulow, Michael Brown, A. P. VanOrter, C. Wangler, R. Spratling, C. Seward, G. Foster, James Thorp, W. Benedict, Alex Sticks, J. Baxter, D. H. Buchanan, Jas. Elder, Corp. N. Hutchins, Elvin G. Bunker, Archibald, Lorenzo D. Bliss, H. Jones, B. Lager, James Baird, Geo. Monroe, David M. VanOrder, Harvey D. Nelson, Frank Thompson, Samuel young, Alfred Rigs, Nicholas Mehan, Wm. Borchus, Corp. A. J. Adams, Geo. R. Pollock, Geo. Lehhard, C. F. Hulse, David McCloy, Lieut. Olson. One ball hit Lieut. Olson and knocked his skull off, killed two men behind him and broke another's leg..

Wounded in companies A B and E: A. C. Lien, Lieut. Wakeman, Alex Robinson, John Aldrich, D. H. Rowland, L. Salisbury, C. A. Brown, D. W. Brown, Freeman S. Drukler, John Flood, A. F. Headerson, John Horel, Geo. M. Johnson,

R. Kilbourne, J. N. Minor, D. Muraso, E. H. Robin, H. Sabin, C. L. Themar, M. S. Thousand, John L. Scott, Capt. Frank Campbell, Corporal Latham, Private McConnel, Geo. Hibbard, Walter Reader, Gilbert Ketcoum, Wm. Hunter, Joseph Howard, James Carl, Chris Barteman, Aaron Durning, Oscar Howe, Lucien Herringway, James Brown, Sergeant Smith.

*EG, 1-28-1863*

### FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

The deputation, consisting of Messrs. Sherman, Mallory and Rosencrans, which went from this place to Murfreesboro, have returned. They report the wounded of the 36<sup>th</sup> as being well cared for, their hospitals clean and neat, with kind and attentive nurses. The “boys” are so glad to see them. It did them more good than medicine. We have only time to add this week that Cyrus Dean and Alex Henderson of the wounded since died. The wounded of the Plato Cavalry are; Co. B – John W. Davis, right elbow, James Knox, arm and thigh.

The killed, wounded and missing in Gen. Sill’s Brigade is reported as follows:

36<sup>th</sup> Ill., 215; 88<sup>th</sup> Ill., 116; 21<sup>st</sup> Mich., 143; 24<sup>th</sup> Wis., 175.

Surgeons of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. state federal loss killed 1000, wounded, 6000, missing, 4000. Rebel surgeons admit loss of 21,000 killed wounded and missing.

*EG, 1-28-1863*

### THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

The Captain of the Grundy County Boys in the 36<sup>th</sup>, writes to the Herald of Morris, as follows about the battle of Murfreesboro:

“It was a miracle that any of us escaped being taken prisoners, they were within eight paces of us when I told the boys to save themselves as best they could and we broke and run for dear life. I attempted to rally the boys at the hospital, but

they were too close to us, and we broke again and went to the timber and formed there and fell back in good order. Our wounded are doing well under the care of our Surgeon, Dr. Pierce, the boys give him great credit for staying and taking such good care of them. He was taken prisoner when we had to fall back and leave the hospital. Our boys did all that human beings could do to stop the hordes that pressed so but they were too strong for us and we were compelled to give way. We left 46 of the old 36<sup>th</sup> dead on the field, and have over 160 wounded out of 500 that we took into action. So you see we did some good fighting, we drove them off the hill with heavy loss at the point of the bayonet, when they rallied again and old Bragg led the charge in person.”

*GCH, 1-28-1863*

#### ARMY CORRESPONDENCE

We give below an extract from a letter written by Wm. Karnes, a member of Co. G., 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, to his father residing north of this city.

We left camp at Mill Creek, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December. About 7 miles out on the Nolensville Pike we came in contact with the rebel pickets, and after a short skirmish with musketry, we drove them to Nolensville, where they made a stand, having about 300 cavalry and one battery of artillery. After about a half hours fight, we compelled them again to leave, taking a few prisoners and one piece of artillery. They were posted on a hill and our men were in a valley. We camped for the night. At an early hour on the 27<sup>th</sup>, we were again on the road. At 10:30 o'clock, the cannon made the woods ring and this cannonading was kept up half an hour, when a drenching rain set in and our boys got a complete soaking. When the rain was over, we found the rebels had fled several miles beyond the Tryune. We again encamped for the night. The 28<sup>th</sup> being Sunday, we laid over here for the day, and buried a few men and took care of the wounded. Our Chaplain preached a splendid sermon in the afternoon. On the 29<sup>th</sup> at an early hour, marching orders came for us to cut across the country, to the Murfreesboro Pike as Bragg was concentrating his forces there. We marched all that day, through cedar swamps, so thick that you could not see ten rods ahead. At night we came to where the 7<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania cavalry had a fight with secesh cavalry. At night we slept on the battle field in a heavy rain. On the 30<sup>th</sup> at 3 o'clock a.m. we were aroused and

cooked and eat our breakfast, of coffee hard crackers and bacon, and this over, we marched one mile, where the enemy were, and the engagement commenced, and the rattling of musketry and the roar of cannon was terrific. When night came we had gained a half a mile, but it was dearly paid for. The 36<sup>th</sup> had about 20 men wounded, among them was Corp. Wm. Gould and private Peter Bradt. During the night we laid in line of battle, with scarcely anything to eat, within 30 rods of the enemy. At short intervals through the whole night, we could hear the pickets firing. On the 31<sup>st</sup> at 4 o'clock a.m. we took a new position and although it was very cold, we were not allowed to build any fires. At sunrise the enemy charged on us, two regiments ran leaving the 36<sup>th</sup> and 88<sup>th</sup> Illinois. The 36<sup>th</sup> held its ground for some time, until 200 of the regiment were killed and wounded, when we retreated about 120 rods, when Col. Greusel rallied us again, and we drove the enemy back to the starting point. General Sill was killed in this charge. Then the enemy undertook to flank us, making a charge on one of McCook's batteries, and taking four guns. By this time they had attacked General Johnson, who they found asleep, and his men eating breakfast, and the artillery men watering their horses. They took three batteries of six guns each. As the rebels came down on Johnson's men they ran and such an other sight you rarely see. Sheridan and Davis would have held their position, if Johnson had done as he ought to have done, but as the rebels were flanking us we had to retreat, and then all of the yelling I ever heard this beat it. They drove us around to where Crittenden and Reauseau were, and things began to look better. In the retreat the 36<sup>th</sup> and 88<sup>th</sup>, were in good order. Col. Greusel took Gen. Sill's place as soon as he fell. On the first of January, in the morning the rebels came upon us, but we repulsed with heavy loss. At 2 o'clock p.m. they again tried us but with heavier loss than before. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, heavy cannonading was kept up all day and at 4 p.m., they massed their forces on Reauseau's front, and thought they were coming in for certain. They undertook to storm a battery, consisting of two 20 pound parrot guns, and four 32 pound Napoleons, and the way our men loaded and fired these guns was terrible to the rebels, who were again driven back with great slaughter. The dead bodies of the rebels lay so thick upon the field that you could walk from one to the other. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the fight ended, and our men went into the city. Our dead and wounded lay on the field for three days. Col. Greusel did not get a scratch.

*GCH, 1-28-1863*

DEAD. – We see by the daily papers that Corporal Wm. Gould, of Co. G. 36<sup>th</sup> Regt. has died of his wounds, received in the Murfreesboro fight. Peter Bradt, and other wounded are in hospital at Cincinnati.

*GCH, 1-28-1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>. – Several letters were received on Monday from members of the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, at the time of writing, encamped near Murfreesboro. One from Lieutenant Austin, reports, the boys doing well, yet anticipating another battle. The best of the whole news, is, that the paymaster was down that way, and the boys were expecting to be paid off.

*WS, 1-28-1863*

#### LIST OF KILLED AND WOUNDED

The following is a complete list of killed and wounded in the two McHenry Co. companies, (A and H,) in the 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Regiment, in the Battle before Murfreesboro, as reported by Dr. Pierce, Surgeon of the Regiment.

Killed in Company A – Henry Clayton, F. A. Burmaster, Moses Gibbs, Thomas Stanton, Thomas Fenner, Harvey D. Norton.

Wounded in Company A – Milton Townsend, thigh; J. N. Miner, fingers; Serg. Alex Robinson, back; Chas. A. Brown, right arm; Alex F. Henderson, right shoulder; John Flood, right elbow; John A. White, left knee; Cyrus F. Dean, right leg; Chas. L. Theener, ankle.

Killed in Company H – Wm. H. Jones, Lorenzo D. Keyes, Wm. H. Hutchins, Washington M. Floyd, Corp. Orlando Nash, Alvin S. Bunker, Robert Archibald.

Wounded in Company H – Calvin F. Jones, left side; J. H. Sackett, right hip; Myron Harris, right leg; Horace Chittenden, arm.

*WS, 1-28-1863*

#### FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>

We have received a letter from Myron Kent, describing the battles before Murfreesboro, but as it is mainly the same as we printed last week, we shall publish only so much as relates particularly to Company H. He says:

“At the close of the battle, we had 14 in company H, and 140 in the regiment, sole survivors of that once powerful band.

Myron A. Smith has not been seen or heard of since the fight, until yesterday, when we heard that he was wounded and a prisoner in Dixie. Although we have better men to command the company, he was brave, and we respect him. First Sergeant Horace N. Chittenden has an arm broken. J. C. Wolfe, Nelson B. Sherwood, D. D. Warwick, Calvin Jones, Myron Harris, and Hanry Sackett are wounded quite badly. I have not seen them yet. Chas. Crawford and David Hartman were only cut slightly. Jas. Hutchins is paroled. The following I helped to bury in one grave; they were stripped of almost all their clothing; Alvin S. Bunker, William Hutchins, Orlando W. Nash, Lorenzo D. Keyes, Harrison Jones, Washington M. Floyd, and Robert Archibald. Side by side they stood in battle, side by side they now decay.”

“Can anyone inform us  
Where our Robert Key has gone,  
He fled before the battle,  
And left us here alone.

We miss him; yes, we mourn him,  
For fear he may be dead,  
We’re sure he’s not a prisoner,  
For he did not like Confeds.

Should anyone chance meet him,  
Please send him here right straight,  
He forgot his gun and cartridge box,  
He left in such great haste.

MYRON.

*AB, 1-29-1863*

LETTER FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>

Camp on Stone River,  
near Murfreesboro, Tenn., Jan 21,  
1863

Dear Beacon; -- Again I find myself seated with the intention of writing you a letter. I have several things that I desire to say to your readers, and can only communicate with them through the medium of my gander’s quill and your columns. I hope therefore you will have patients with me and publish my letters. In the first place I want to inform your readers that we must, and soon call upon

them for more help. Our ranks are becoming thinned by battles and disease; they must soon be replenished or all is lost. The remnants of our regiment are becoming sadly discouraged. They see their numbers decreasing daily without any corresponding supply. They also see that the work before them is still prodigious; that it will require vast numbers to accomplish our objects. To quit short of that they consider disgraceful, and throwing away what has been done. We will not do it, Governor Seymour and his band of cowardly and traitorous followers to the contrary notwithstanding. We can, and we will subdue the south; that point we are determined upon. We are now fully convinced that the difficulty can only be ended by fighting. We had anticipated something from Lincoln's proclamation, -- vain hope. His last proclamation has fallen to the ground worse than useless. It has done us an injury -- it has disappointed us, and enraged and united the south. I advocate the emancipation proclamation because I believed it just and righteous, -- I advocated it for principle, and not for revenge. I believed slavery to be wrong and desired to see it abolished from the United States. If slavery is wrong in Mississippi and South Carolina, it is wrong in Kentucky and Tennessee. If the President had power to abolish it in one state, he had the power to abolish it in all states. Justice and principle demand that he include them all, love or revenge makes distinctions. The liberty of the slaves in Kentucky and Missouri is quite as precious as those from Louisiana and Alabama. Their rights to the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness, are quite as sacred to my mind as those of the Cotton States. Then -- by the difference? Ah, you speak of the compensated emancipation policy; yes, yes, I understand, I have heard of the dealing before. Orpheus Kerr told me about that some time since. He explained it quite thoroughly, and I was pleased with his explanation. Orpheus made it as clear as mud, so will Uncle Abe. It will remember him of a story he heard in Springfield. I tell you Missouri seceded from the Union and her slaves ought to be freed. Tennessee also seceded, why is she exempt? Kentucky is disloyal to the core, and would seced this month if it was not for Granger and his twenty five thousand soldiers within striking distance of her capital. Still, she too, must not suffer, -- she must retain slavery or else the United States must open a slave market and buy her slaves. I say the proclamation is a failure. A. Lincoln slogged over and spoiled it; therefore I say there is no way left for us to save our Government but to fight it through and crush the rebellion. We can do it if we have the proper support from the North. In order to do it we must have more men. How, are we to obtain them is the question? I answer, -- by a draft. Volunteering under enormous bounties is worse than nonsense; it pauperizes the states and counties where the men are raised, and produces a poor class of soldiers; of course the cheaper class of men sell themselves first, and the old adage of cheap and nasty, applies as well to soldiers as other commodities. We want no more boughten men; we want them drafted, -- drawn from all classes and ranks of

society. We want the sneaking, cowardly Democrat as well as the Republican. That arch-traitor, the best cut of original sin, Jeff Davis, in his speech to the Mississippi Legislature the other day, said that Lincoln could not enforce a draft in the north western states, and in a few days the *Chicago Times* publishes the same ridiculous nonsense, and in due course of time thereafter, the lesser and more indignant Democrats in our ranks make the same discoveries, and tell the same stories. Still there is no sympathy of communion between the Democrats of the North and the traitors of the southern Confederacy. My advice to the President is to drop proclamations, issue a draft of five hundred thousand of those ardent and enthusiastic Democrats, to place side by side with our noble and uncomplaining young Republicans, and we will show them sights that will make their eyes water. We will yield them the position of honor; they shall have the front ranks, and be placed face to face with their kindred spirits of the Confederacy. Gentlemen of Kane County, I say unto you, be prepared; as certain as tomorrow's sun rises the draft will come. All you cowardly vagabond who tremble in your boots, start for Canada, before it is too late. Many of our people and your readers do not understand the condition of things; they say we have more men in the field than the South, and ought to subdue them at once. They must recollect that an invading army requires nearly double the men of a retreating army. The invading army has its line of communication to protect, and its supplies to bring forward; for instance, suppose you have two armies of fifty thousand men each, on Fox River, place one at Ottawa and the other at Elgin, to within a very short distance of Ottawa, are warm friends of the Elgin army, and of course bitter enemies to the other; the Ottawa army attempts to go to Elgin, they start with fifty thousand men; they have to bring all their supplies from their home, Ottawa, imagine what a force it will take, of men and teams to provide and haul the necessary provisions and supplies after the Ottawa army; of course these men have to be detailed from the fifty thousand, and thereby lessen the number and weaken their army; but when they arrive at Newark, they find the citizens there sworn enemies, determined to do them all the injury they can; of course they will attack and destroy their provisions train unless it is strongly protected. To prevent this, the Ottawa army is compelled to leave five thousand of its soldiers at Newark, to prevent its citizens from gathering together and destroying the provisions train as it comes along. At Bristol they find the same state of things; again they are compelled to leave five thousand men from their army; at Oswego the same again, and another five thousand are left; at Aurora, Batavia, Geneva, and St. Charles the same; now let us stop and count our men. We started with fifty thousand; we have left five thousand each, at seven different stations; that has taken thirty five of our fifty thousand; the Elgin army has been at home among its friends and is still fifty thousand strong, while the Ottawa army, although it has fifty thousand men in the field, has only fifteen

thousand men left when it gets to Elgin. It is reasonable for the friends of the Ottawa army to suppose that their army can attack and defeat the Elgin army? It is worse than nonsense. They may have the best drilled, best disciplined and the bravest troops in the world, still they cannot succeed; the odds against them is too great.

This simply and fairly illustrates the condition of our two armies. I do not doubt for a moment but that we have more men in the field than the Confederates; our men are guarding cities, towns and railroads, from Cincinnati, Ohio to Murfreesboro, Tenn. Fully one half of this army on the days of our recent fight, were on detached service, guarding railroads, towns and provision trains. The Confederates have no rear to protect, all their men are in the ranks at every fight and consequently they out number us. The Ottawa army, in order to be equal to the Elgin army, should have had ninety thousand men at the start. Therefore, your people must not be surprised if we ask for more help; they must look upon things as they are, and submit cheerfully, they must be drafted willingly, and come like good patriots and help us fight the battles of our country. The noble dead, -- the uncomplaining wounded and maimed, appeal to them to come forward like men, take their place and help finish the work they so nobly began. We are sad but still determined; we are sad and mourn the loss of our noble comrades and fellow soldiers! They are dead, -- slain by tyrant's hands engaged in an unholy cause. We mourn their loss, but cherish their deeds of bravery and daring. We are determined to continue in the good fight until we avenge their blood, and not a traitor can be found raised against our flag or our country. Until then, look not for us at home.

We have picked things together again and made ourselves as comfortable as circumstances and surroundings will admit. We are encamped on the banks of Stone River, in a right cozy little grove, two miles south of Murfreesboro. Our wounded boys are doing well, but five have died since the battle. Lieut. Peter Douglas is improving rapidly; he lives as he fought -- determined to be the last man on the ground. Bully for Peter; he is a bully fellow and a bully soldier; Aurora has reason to be proud of him. We have not heard anything from Major Miller and Capt. Hobbs, Merrill and Campbell since their capture. We are lonesome without them. We all miss the Major, he was the life of our party. The Old Man is well and is the same ever faithful soldier. He is in command of his brigade and happy. John Watkins is well. Send Beacons to

Tattle Tale

*AB, 1-29-1863*

THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILL. – COL. GREUSEL.

This noble regiment has again won the brightest laurels on the bloodstained field of Murfreesboro. It is a living witness that active field service does not wear out a regiment, if its officers are men of sense and do their duty, half so fast as lying idle in the camp. It may be remembered that it was raised at Aurora, and its officers and men all citizens of that and the neighboring counties. A writer to the Beacon gives the following account of its wanderings and service:

We left Camp Hammond, Aurora, Kane County, Illinois, on Tuesday afternoon, September 24, 1861, with 1,183 men. The regiment has been in the service fifteen months, marched 2,800 miles, -- five hundred and twenty five by steamboat, ten hundred and nineteen miles by railroad, and twelve hundred and sixty one on foot. We have done military duty in five Southern states – Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Kentucky, and Tennessee, besides traveling extensively in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

We have been in four severe battles – Pea Ridge, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>; Co. A, cavalry at Iuka, Corinth, Sept. and the regiment at Chaplin Hill, near Perryville, Kentucky, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 1862. We have had twenty eight men and two commissioned officers killed in battle and died of their wounds. Twenty two men have died in our regimental hospital under care of our own surgeons and nurses; sixteen have died in general and post hospitals, three have died at home, while absent from the regiment on furlough, making the total deaths in the regiment from all causes since it left Aurora, sixty nine. Twenty three commissioned officers have resigned and been dismissed from the service. One commissioned officer has died from disease and two from wounds received in battle. Thirty eight privates have been discharged from service by our regimental surgeons, on account of disability. Forty three have been discharged by general orders and post surgeons while absent from the regiment. Twenty three were mustered out of the service as a band. Nine have been discharged on account of promotions to offices in other regiments. Thirty one have deserted and ought to be shot. Twenty three new recruits have joined since the organization of the regiment, leaving 967 men now belonging to the regiment and doing duty.

And again at the fearful struggle of Murfreesboro, this splendid regiment side by side with our own 88<sup>th</sup>, (Second Board of Trade,) won immortal honor. They showed themselves amongst the bravest of the brave, and have earned a name which history will ever cherish.

And right here we have a word to say for their gallant Colonel N. Greusel. This regiment owes much of its efficiency to his care and superior military knowledge and experience. From the first battle at Pea Ridge, he distinguished

himself and earned then and there a Brigadier General's star. If we mistake not, he was ruled out because the list was full. He commanded for a long time the brigade of which his regiment formed a part, till just previous to the battle of Murfreesboro, when the lamented General Sill was assigned to it. In every characteristic which goes to form a brave and successful officer, Col. Greusel stands preeminent. He has won his stars. We hope President Lincoln will at once award them.

-----Chicago Journal

*AB, 1-29-1863*

### OFFICIAL

List of casualties in the thirty-sixth Ills. Regiment from December 30, 1862 to Jan. 4, 1863.

Silas Miller, Major, wounded in thigh and prisoner.

#### Company A

Fener Thomas, Corporal, killed  
Clayson Henry, killed  
Stanton Thomas, killed  
Burmester Frederick, killed  
Gibbs Moses F., killed  
Johnson George M., killed

#### Wounded

Wakeman S. H., 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut., in left arm.  
Robertson Alexander, Sergeant, in body.  
Lynd Alexander C., Sergeant, in left hand.  
Salsbury Leroy, Sergeant, in left arm.  
Rowland Ben, Corporal, in arm slight.  
Dean Cyrus F., Corporal, in the leg.  
Aldrich John W., Corporal, in the leg  
Brown Chas. A., in arm  
Brown Daniel W., in leg  
Dunkley Truman S., in leg  
Flood John, in arm  
Henderson Alexander, in back

Howeett John A., in leg slightly  
Miner Isaac N., in head and a prisoner  
Dorus Moses, in mouth  
Sabin Merrill H., in leg  
Thurmer Charles, in leg  
White John A., in leg  
Robinson Edward, prisoner  
Shaw Albert, prisoner  
Scott John F., missing

Company B

McClorg David, Sergeant, killed  
Thompson Frank, killed  
Campbell Ben F., Captain, wounded in hip  
Douglas George P., Second Lieut., wounded in thigh  
Latham Henry A., Corporal, wounded in right lung  
Blakesly Wm. H., Corporal, wounded in leg  
Hoselton Emry D., Corporal, wounded in leg  
Alcot Henry, wounded in head  
Race Vanwick, wounded in foot  
Ott John, wounded in leg  
Kertz Adam, wounded in leg  
Vanolin Wm., wounded in both legs  
Campbell James, wounded in the head  
McConnel Thomas, wounded in leg  
Weeden Elnathan, prisoner  
Campbell Adam, prisoner  
Miner Jacob, missing  
Ecklart Carl, missing  
Wilder Joel J., missing

Company C

Baxter Joseph, killed  
Elder James, killed  
Buchanan Daniel H., killed  
Arthurs Wm. T., killed  
Colwell Robert J., wounded in right foot  
Dryden James F., wounded in arm  
Eckelson Albert O., in hand  
Edgar John R., wounded in side  
Gourney Thomas B., wounded in left arm  
Hartzell Wm., wounded in right hand

Hercher Ferdinand, wounded in head  
Kingeley Warren, wounded in left arm  
Kerch Ethan, wounded in head  
McClannahan F., wounded in head  
McPhenner, wounded in---  
Reeder Walter, wounded in thigh  
Slook John, wounded in side  
Smith James, wounded in shoulder  
Stewart Abraham, wounded in arm  
Young Joseph, Musician, wounded in head

Company D

Sickles Alexander, Sergeant, killed  
Benedict William, Corporal, killed  
Thorp James, killed  
Samuel Young, killed  
Taylor John C., Corporal, wounded in head  
Thompson Ole H., Corporal, in head slight  
Smith Joseph, Corporal, in side  
Kimball Harvey, Corporal, in head  
Birch Henry G., in leg  
Bannister Lynden, in hip slight  
Welch Thomas, leg broke  
Tucker Samuel, in shoulder  
Erickson Wilson, in leg  
Johnson Ole H., in hand  
Olson Ole H., in shoulder  
Seymour Lewis, missing  
Henning Frank, missing  
Edmund Oliver, prisoner

Company E

Sayers Benjamin, killed  
Meehan Nicholas, killed  
Haskias Augustus, killed  
Burgess William, killed  
Baird James, killed  
Hobbs Albert M., Captain, wounded in breast slight  
Smith O., Sergeant, wounded slightly  
Henningway Lucius, Sergeant, in shoulder

Darnell Daniel, Corporal, in breast slightly  
Barnside D., Corporal, in breast slightly  
Baer Frederick, in left hand arm  
Ballard Alfred, in two places  
Bourse James, in elbow and knee  
Drane Chas. C., in left thigh  
Doty Chas. W., in right cheek and prisoner  
Daniel Aaron, in both hips  
Porter Uriah, in right hip  
Howe Oscar, in arm  
Haigh Henry, in left leg  
Harrel James, in hand  
Hanker Wm., in left shoulder  
Hadeb James S., slightly  
Ketcham Gilbert, in right elbow  
Dlenyd Elisha E., slight  
Sauyer Geo. W., in knee  
Mullen Henry, in arm and side  
Moss Jas. E., slightly  
Merrill Geo., in left side  
Perry Cyrus, in right shoulder  
Raselkorn Walker S., slightly  
Scofield Chas. H., in left shoulder  
Woobunveber Wm., prisoner  
Wagner Joel, wounded in the face

Company F

Olson Loren F., Lieutenant, killed  
Boomer Michael, Sergeant, killed  
Riggs Alfred, Corporal, killed  
Foster Jas., killed  
Seward Cornelius, killed  
Spaulding Richard H., killed  
Wangler Chas., killed  
Vanorder Augustus, killed  
Mossman Geo. W., Lieutenant, wounded  
Smith Simon F., Corporal, wounded  
Eybond Wm., Sergeant, wounded  
Mossman Wm. G., Sergeant, wounded in the forehead slightly  
Curtis Wm. H., in right shoulder  
Cummins Slipper C., in both legs

Dopp Edwin, in head left shoulder and right hip  
Huggest Wm. G., in head  
Jordan John, slightly  
Myre Anton, in leg  
Olson Ferris, through both hips  
Tomblin Alfred, under left arm  
Mellff Albert H., in back of neck  
Thompson William, in back  
Canute Phillips, missing

Company G

Halse Yalman, killed  
Norton Harvey D., killed  
Vandistand David M., killed  
Gool Wm., Corporal, wounded in neck mortally  
Horsen Robert D., Corporal, in left hand  
Kennedy Daniel, Corporal, in right arm and leg  
Bradh Peter, in left leg  
Brown Jesse H., missing  
Chamberlain Wm. N., in left arm  
Heber Joseph, in left shoulder  
Jordan Robert, in right shoulder  
Merely Geo. W., in left leg  
Roseman Wilber, in hip  
Severance Wm. F., in right leg  
Buchanan Peter, in hip  
Smal Frank, in left foot slight  
Yarmel Milton G., in right hand  
Huthins Wm., Corporal, killed  
Nash Orlando, Corporal, killed  
Bunker Alvin, Corporal, killed  
Archibald Robert, killed  
Floyd Wm. M., killed  
Jones Wm. H., killed  
Keyes Lorenzo D., killed  
Smith Myron C., Lieutenant, missing  
Chitenden H. N., Sergeant, wounded in arm  
Sherwood N. B., Sergeant, in head  
Wolf John C., Sergeant, right thigh  
Hartman David, Corporal, in arm  
Crawford Chas., in leg

Coner Jackson, in forehead  
Ford Jerome C., in thigh  
Jackett John H., in arm  
Warwick David D., in left breast and arm  
Kes Robert, missing  
Harris Myron, leg broken  
Froop Monroe, in left hand

Company J

Ellis Gander A., Corporal, killed  
Merrill O. B., Captain, wounded and missing  
Smith D. G., Sergeant, wounded and missing  
McClay D., missing  
Nibzkee Fred, wounded in the hand  
Varner Wm., in thigh  
Keith John, in foot  
Miller Anton, slightly

Company K

Adams Aseph, Corporal, killed  
Lenhard Geo., killed  
Elliot John F., wounded  
Monroe Geo., killed  
Pollock Geo K., killed  
Hall Geo., killed  
Gordon John, Sergeant, wounded in leg and hand  
Adams Eldrick, in leg  
Folson Sheron, in leg slightly  
Weeks Frank, Corporal, in thigh  
Hazelburst Fred, Corporal, in body  
Wanzer Sidney, in thigh and shoulder  
Burden Henry, slightly  
Miner Chas., in nose  
Wood Oren, in body  
Hegen Henry, in body  
Grandy G. W., in hand  
Burroughs Allen, wounded and a prisoner  
Peterson John, in the thigh  
Vanwinklin Paul, in leg  
Reeder Edward, in hand and a prisoner  
Albro Eugene, in hand and shoulder  
Severance Joseph, prisoner

Sanders Harlem, wounded in leg slight  
Button Lucian, in leg  
Gotes Geo., missing

Company G

Edward Collins, Sergeant, paroled prisoner  
David Boyer, Corporal                   “  
Gibson Wm.                                 “  
Prouty Abijh                               “  
Corkins Patrick                          “  
Hume Edward W.                         “

Number killed, 45; prisoners, 154; missing, 7; paroled prisoners, 6; total  
213.

*GCH, 2-4-1863*

RETURNED. – On Friday last, Ed. Collins, E. W. Hume, A. Prouty and Pat Coulens, members of the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment, who were taken prisoners, at the battle of Murfreesboro, and paroled, returned to their homes in this County. They look rugged and hearty, but considerably weather beaten. The boys who entered the service, under the first call for three years volunteers, have become thoroughly hardened and inured to service, and they can stand a “heap of grief” in the way of long marches, hard fighting and still harder food. But we hope the returned soldiers, will have a good time, while they bide with us.

*EG, 2-11-1863*

ANOTHER OF THE BRAVE 36<sup>th</sup> FALLEN.

Cyrus F. Deane, only son of Charles P. Deane, of this city, was a native of New England. He came to Elgin with his father and family in the autumn of 1857, he being at that time fifteen years of age.

When intelligence reached us that Fort Sumpter was taken by the rebels, his soul seemed fired with patriotic zeal, and his desire to identify himself with the first company organized in Elgin was intense; but his father thinking him --- --- --- to remain at home for the present at least. This he decided to do; but as the season advanced, and other companies were in process of formation, his desire to enlist was so great his friends opposed him no longer, and he became a soldier in the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois regiment.

He responded to his country’s call voluntarily, cheerfully, and nobly did he

perform his whole duty.

In the many letters written to his parents, and other friends, never was found a complaining word. He was invariably "well and in good spirits," his brave young heart bearing cheerfully all weariness, privation and suffering. Even after receiving his death wound, his characteristic cheerfulness manifested itself in kind and hopeful messages to "the loved ones at home."

He was wounded at the battle of Murfreesboro, in the right leg, was taken prisoner by the rebels, detained a few days, and then sent to the hospital in Nashville, where his limb was amputated. After this operation he gradually grew weaker, soon the chilliness of death crept over him, and his brave young spirit ascended to its maker.

He thought he became a Christian four years since, though he never made a public profession of religion. In his last letters to his friends he spoke with deep interest of the prayer meeting and Bible class connected with the regiment.

Although the hearts of his parents are aching with anguish at the early loss of their only son, yet they have the comforting assurance that he died in a glorious cause, and that their loss is to him great gain.

*WS, 2-11-1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>TH</sup> ILL. REGIMENT

Camp Bradley, Tenn.,  
Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1863

EDITOR SENTINEL:

If there is anymore lack of water in the Cumberland for the next ten years, it will be a mystery to us all, where so much of the aqueous fluid goes to, for it has been rain, sprinkle, drizzle, pour, for the past four weeks, and the face of the earth presents one grand mud hole.

Saturday last, our brigade went out to guard a forage train, in the direction of Shelbyville. The advance companies fired a couple of shots at rebel scouts, but we saw nothing of them. About 11 o'clock it commenced raining, and did not slacken

until we reached camp, just after dark. Imagine our surprise when we had just commenced cooking our suppers, four old faces suddenly appeared among us – viz: George Bunker, of Ridgefield, John Brink, Mr. Ford and Mr. Sherwood, of Algonquin. Our uncomfortable day's work was soon forgotten, for, it is needless to say, every one was highly gratified to grasp the friendly hand of an old neighbor, direct from home.

Their stay with us was very short, as they started back Monday. They convey homeward the remains of Alvin Bunker, and Orlando Nash, two young men who possessed the entire confidence and respect of all their comrades, and their absence throws a deep gloom over the company. They died as a "soldier loves to die," nobly defending their country's honor.

Lieut. Colonel Jenks has arrived from Mississippi, and taken command of the regiment. Just before the battle, the number of our brigade and division were changed. Gen. Sheridan now commands the 3<sup>rd</sup> division, and Col. Greusel the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade.

The following promotions have been announced in company H, to fill vacancies. Samuel Archibald, to be 6<sup>th</sup> Corporal, Barent Van Ness, 8<sup>th</sup> Corporal. We have now twenty-two men for duty. Our wounded boys, so far as we know, are doing well.

Respectfully yours, Q. R.

*AB, 2-12-1863*

#### CHARACTERISTIC LETTER FROM MAJ. SILE MILLER, OF THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

The following letter was received a few days ago by Jas. G. Barr, Esq., of this city, from his brother in law, Major Silas Miller, taken prisoner at Murfreesboro. The letter is characteristic of the Major, evincing no useless repining at his lot, but like a brave man putting the best face upon what cannot be helped.

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Brother; I have once written to Holmes since our captivity – it may not reach him and I write again. I am getting along finely. My leg, though highly discolored and somewhat feverish, is able to sustain my weight and make a good walk of it. My right breast, though handsomely blued, is not painful, and corporeally and spiritually I may say I am emphatically and decidedly well – very well. I have heard nothing from Bob as yet, and am very anxious on his account, Please don't criticize the style of this epistle; I have not time; find writing material. When found, poor writing paper is \$2 per quire, Whiskey \$5 to \$9 quart, cards

\$2.50 per pack, butter \$2.25 per lb., molasses, 90 cents per quart, and other things in proportion. You can hardly find paper which has not been manufactured into money.

We are quartered (58 of us) in a room about the size of concert hall, and have a "circus" nightly, in which appears the elephant, the giraffe, the Confederate bug, the giant, and last night wound up with a glorious rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner" which woke the astonished echoes of the remotest corners of this accursed town. We have just received intelligence of Bragg's "withdrawal" to Tullahoma. The faces of our outside friends are somewhat elongated. Weather wet and cool. We are in excellent spirits, and want to return to our regiment.

Love to all. Write to mother and Bob, and tell them how I am. Love to the babies. Good Bye.

Truly, Silo

*GCH, 2-18-1863*

CAPT. LONGWORTH. – We are pleased to welcome again in our midst, Capt. Abel Longworth, who has resigned his position as commander of Co. G. 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, and returns again to abide with us. Few officers in the service have endured more of the privations and hardships of service, or returned to the walks of civil life with a brighter record, than Capt. Longworth. He has gallantly led his company where duty called and danger most imminent, and is justly entitled to a respite from duty. We welcome him home. By his resignation, Lieut. Robert Denning assumes command, Linus Austin becomes first Lieutenant, Richard Barstow, second Lieut., and E. Hunt, Orderly Sergeant.

*WS, 2-18-1863*

#### FROM A WOUNDED VOLUNTEER

Hospital No. 12, Louisville, Ky.,  
February 2d, 1862

EDITOR WOODSTOCK SENTINEL:

As has been the case, ever since Company H, 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteers, left old McHenry, so it continues to engross the public mind, especially here in Louisville.

An extensive expedition left this post yesterday, either for Vicksburg or Murfreesboro; should their destination be the latter, we will soon hear of another great battle from this section, and I hope that the result may be equal to public expectations.

We little thought when we parted with our friends, that so many of us would be victims of secessionists; nevertheless we cling to the consolation, that we have

done good services for our country.

The remains of some of our brave boys have been restored to their friends, and while I am tracing these lines, it may be, the last sad rites are being performed over our comrades, Orlando Nash and Alvin Bunker.

Endeared to their company, and beloved by all for their fearless bravery and daring, we shall all lament the untimely loss of our comrades, and regret that they were not to receive and enjoy the rewards which a grateful country would have accorded them, for their soldierly qualities and chivalrous bravery in action.

Nor would I pass others by unnoticed, which are equally worthy of honorable mention, for their soldierly bearing. William Hutchins proved himself equal to any of his comrades. H. Jones and Keyes are among the number which fell on that fatal field, bore their part nobly.

There are many of our wounded lying in the hospitals suffering from their wounds, of those, and the few that remain unhurt, much might be said; they have established a reputation that needs no comment.

It is now over a year, since the 36<sup>th</sup> took passage on the Burlington and Quincy Railroad, at Aurora, for the land of Dixie, amidst a vast assembly of spectators. Such cheering as was then and there heard, I venture the assertion has not been heard there since. We occupied 25 splendid coaches, (1 would be enough now) drawn by two powerful engines. At every station, thousands had gathered to bid us "God Speed." The darkness hindered them not; even at the midnight hour the ladies came to cheer us on.

But a chance was near at hand, instead of a smile we met with only frowns, as we accompanied the expedition into southern Missouri, soon after, in pursuit of Price and his secesh followers.

Long, tedious marches, and almost starvation, were common with us. Many days we had nothing but burned corn. We finally gave up the chase, after following them about 200 miles, and camped near Bentonville, Arkansas, to recruit. The rebels received heavy reinforcements, and came back to give us battle. Our troops were massed near Pea Ridge, where we allowed the enemy to pass us completely, and the next day the battle commenced vigorously. During the days we were fighting, we never had any more provisions than any one of us could have eaten at one meal.

We lost our blankets during the fight, and a cold rain set in, while in pursuit of the flying foe, and you can imagine how pleasant was our situation, without blankets, tents, nor hardly sufficient rations to keep us alive.

From thence we were ordered to Forsyth, and thence to Batesville, each time passing around the tributaries of the White River. An ordinary volume might be filled with the incidents of those tedious marches. We forded Spring River six times, in one afternoon.

From thence we were ordered to Corinth, which caused us another march of over 200 miles, amounting in all, after we left Rolla, to over 1,200 miles.

We have contended with the enemy in three of the greatest battles of the day; followed the enemy in five different states; underwent one of the most tedious expeditions known to the service; and withstood the scorching rays of the sun in Mississippi. Altogether, I think it is not strange that so few remain.

W.

*AB, 2-19-1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT.

Camp on Stone River near,  
Murfreesboro, Tenn., Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>.

Editor Beacon; -- I had determined not to write you any more letters but foolishly I have changed that determination and again find myself seated with a letter commenced. We are still in our old camp on Stone river, without any visible prospects of moving ahead very soon. Everything seems to indicate a necessity for keeping this army in this vicinity. We are in a manner content with our position and condition.

We know that we thus far have been a victorious army, and therefore, feel proud of our achievements and position. But we never forget that our victories have been won at immense sacrifices, and our hearts sadden when we think of the noble dead, and the uncomplaining maimed. I care not if the individual be half brute, and his heart made of stone he need only visit the battlefield of Stone River, and the hospital at Murfreesboro, to bring the tears to his eyes, and the sympathy to his heart. With these things in existence, and the knowledge that we are completely surrounded with enemies makes us regret our condition. We started in this war thinking that all the people of the North were interested in it and would lend their influence, if not their valuable carcasses in suppressing the rebellion. In this we have been sadly deceived. Many if not all of our worst enemies reside in the Northern States. I respect the copper-bottom rebel soldiers of Hardee's corps much more than I do the cowardly, cringing, sneaks of the Northern Legislatures. We have met Hardee's corps twice, and know from experience, that they are good and most determined soldiers, that fight like demons. We know what to expect from them, and go prepared accordingly when we meet them. We recognize them as the highwaymen that meet us in the open field in the daytime and there demand our country or our lives, while on the other hand, we recognize in those filthy,

sneaking, cringing cowardly hounds of the Northern Legislatures, the cowardly pretending friends, who goaded us on, until they had us well in front to protect their property and homes, these quietly disfranchised us, stole themselves into respectable and lucrative positions, and then very business like offered us, body and soul, country and all to Jeff Davis and Co. We acknowledge it a big sale, providing Davis bids a reasonable amount. We are astonished and await in silence for the proposition at last it comes. Davis speaks from Mississippi and informs the honorables of the Legislature and us of the army that he does not want us or them. He says that we all belong to the scum that Cromwell fished from the bogs of Ireland and Scotland and therefore will not answer his contract. Great Thunder ! This army is insulted. We are fierce and bound to raise the very devil. Hold ! Hold ! said our conservative friends. The thing is working well. This speech of Davis will make the North angry. They will smite all the factions and rush to our aid and crush the rebellion as a punishment for the insult. We hoped it would. Bill Clark, the little nag, laughed and said he didn't see it in that light. We waited the result, and hoped for the best. Finally the results came in the shape of resolutions from the Illinois and Indiana legislatures. They were after the manner Bill Clark had predicted. No Union, but conservatives and recriminations. As our conservative good natured friends had suggested, all the North run mad, but in very different directions. The Democrats were mad because they had been so shortsighted, as not to offer Davis a large bonus, providing he would accept the Democratic party, and the northwestern states into his Confederacy. While the abolitionists were nearly *or quite* crazed with anger at the insult, and at once determined to raise several hundred thousand negroes to help us crush the rebellion. Oh noble patriots of the North, how fully you appreciate our deprivations, and our hardships. What sacrifices you are ready to make to restore us to our homes and friends. It makes our hearts bleed when we seriously contemplate how much we are loved and respected by our friends of both parties. The one party in the goodness of their drunken hearts, propose to get us out of this scrape by letting us and our country go to the devil, for a few offices in his Confederacy. While the other party, with a much darker determination, propose to send several hundred thousand negroes to aid us in keeping His Satanic Majesty at a safe distance from their homes, and thus prevent him from compelling them to take the oath to support his confederacy. O' consistency, thou art indeed a jewel. We expected when we enlisted, we were to leave the comforts of home, and the society of friends, and submit to the rules and regulations of camp life. In a word, we were willing to sell our independence, and manhood for a time, at thirteen dollars per month, and become the willing slaves of military necessity. In so doing however, we little dreamed we were degrading ourselves permanently. We then thought that volunteering in behalf of our country was a noble act. And that might

well be initiated by those higher in life than ourselves. We consider ourselves men of respectability, and would have thought it unkind, for even a Massachusetts United States Senator to have proposed, that we could or should become the equals of negroes by any act of ours. Even now we do not understand that we are charged with any crime, the papers and our commanders say that we have fought well and bravely. Why then make us the equals of negroes? True we need more men in the field, but why not you white men of the north, come and help us? We do not like to associate with the negroes, and we do not intend to. *I tell you that we will not fight with them*, although they be led by seven Gov. Andrews and Jim Lane's. These men have an undoubted right to put themselves upon a par with negroes, if their tastes and educations dictate thus. We simply say to them that they cannot carry this army with them. We entered this war as a white man's war. We are willing to take our chances and remain to the end, providing it remains a white man's war, but whenever our administration or military authorities decide to change and make it a negroe's war, they need no longer expect our services. Our soldiering ends with the white man's rule. I abhor slavery, and long to see it abolished, but I am not willing to sacrifice our entire army, that has fought and bled for two years for that purpose. We are fighting for the liberty of the white people of the North first, when that is done, we are willing to examine the subject further. Things in the regiment are quiet. Col. Jenks, in command. Some of the wounded boys are dying, and some are improving. Douglas is doing well. Our "stars" seem distant, I fear that we shall not reach. The American eagle is a pretty bird, and seems doomed to continue on its perch. The old man has loved it and protected it manfully. This will be my last until I write again.

Tattle Tale.

*EG, 2-25-1863*

#### A NOBLE REPLY.

Col. Joslyn having been invited to become a candidate for Judge of the courts at Aurora and Elgin, replies as follows: That metal has the right ring.

*To Henry Sherman and others:*

Gentlemen: -- Your letter requesting me to be a candidate for the office of Judge of the court of Common Pleas, of Aurora and Elgin, has been received and in reply I have only to say that knowing the fact that at the time the bill was drawn creating said Courts, there was a distinct understanding and agreement, that the office should be held alternately between the two cities, and relying on the fulfillment of the agreement, I consent to become a candidate for such office, with

the distinct understanding however, that I will not consent to run for the office at the present time as a partisan. Those who vote for me now must do so with full knowledge of the fact, that I am in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war, the preservation of our Government at all hazards, and no compromise on any other condition that a full and complete submission to the Constitution and laws of the United States of America.

Yours respectfully,  
E. S. Joslyn.  
Elgin, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, 1863

WS, 2-25-1863

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Camp on Stone River, near Murfreesboro,  
February 8<sup>th</sup>, 1863.

EDITOR SENTINAL:

The brigade being out on duty at Salem for five days, I am left here nearly alone. Having nothing of importance to do, I will occupy a short time in writing to you.

There is no news here except a rumor that the paymaster is near at hand. We hope it is so, for if ever we were in need of greenbacks, it is just about this time. It is rumored that we are to receive four month's pay. If that be true, some gentlemen from McHenry County had better come down here and see us, and I can assure you we will let him carry back plenty of money, for we are going to send considerable home if we get an opportunity. I do not think it would be safe to send anything by mail from here.

Those gentlemen who were here a few days ago made so short a stay that we did not half see them. I hope they carried back a good report to all our friends. We showed them where we were at work on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December, 1862; and if "a workman is known by his chips," I am confident they will say we were faithful to the last.

Horace N. Chittenden (Orderly Sergeant of our company) and Calvin Jones, are at Murfreesboro. The latter is all over town, running about, doing finely. Horace has been very low. A few days since I went to see him, and he was quite in a frenzy to have his arm cut off. The surgeon in charge told him that he would die no quicker with it on than he would with it off. He had the lockjaw, and all who saw him only shook their heads and consoled him by saying they never knew a case of his kind to recover; and, to cap the climax and discourage him entirely, a chaplain took him by the hand and earnestly entreated him to seek Christ, etc., and

when he found that he could not get him very much interested, he told him confidentially that the surgeons said he could not survive long, etc. Yesterday I went to see him, and found him running about the room. He met me near the door, and shook me by the hand, saying he would soon meet me half way. He was doing finely and feeling good, and says no more about having his arm amputated. Something may yet prostrate him, but he is doing well, and Surgeon Young tells him to walk out, and knock the guards down if they won't let him out. Young told the nurse to kick any man out who tries to discourage the men, the chaplain not excepted.

The report about Gen. Sill being buried by the rebels was untrue. They carried him to Murfreesboro, stripped him of his clothing, and left him to look at. When they retreated they left his body lying by a fence, where it was recognized by his friends.

More anon, from Sinbad.

*GCH, 2-25-1863*

IN HOSPITAL. – By latest reports, we notice that Wm. F. Severns and Geo. W. Moody, of Co. G. 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment are still in the hospital at Louisville, Ky., John F. Fairman, who corresponded with our paper from the Army of the Cumberland, is laying seriously sick in the Hospital at St. Louis.

*AB, 2-26-1863*

#### COL. GREUSEL'S RESIGNATION

The following extract from a letter from Capt. Sam Sherer, commanding escort to Gen. Davis of Gen. Rosecran's army, speaks the feelings and sentiments of every soldier in the first Brigade and 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment. All regret the causes that have induced the "old man" to resign. It is the hope of every man as soon as Col. Greusel's health will permit, that he will be commissioned a Brigadier and sent to his old command.

"I hate to see the "old man" go as we need the services of brave experienced and competent officers, even more than ever; we shall miss his lion voice in the next battle. The Country, Department, Corps, Division, Brigade and Regiment will miss him. The Regiment were ever ready to contest the ground against triple their

number, if they could have the “old man’s” *thundering* commands. All express regret at his departure. He will be succeeded as Col. by a noble, brave, and efficient officer, Lieut. Col. Jenks who is doing splendidly with the Regiment.”

AB, 2-26-1863

### LETTER FROM MURFREESBORO

Camp on Stone River near,  
Murfreesboro, Tenn, Feb 10, '63.

Dear Beacon; -- Excuse me, but I have one more word that I desire to say to your readers, and therefore, write you again. I desire to inform you, and them, concerning the condition of this country and its inhabitants. I deem it important, otherwise I should not have troubled you. In the first place I will give you the prices of a few articles of groceries and other necessaries of life so that you and they can form something of an idea of what it costs to live in a country where war abounds. I apprehend from the resolutions introduced into the Democratic Legislature of Illinois and Indiana, and the Confederate Congress, that there may be a possibility of their attempting to remove the battlefield from this country to the prairies of Illinois and the Northern States. I want them to understand that the expense of the luxury before they indulge. Potatoes are selling for five dollars per bushel, onions four dollars, butter seventy five cents per pound, cheese sixty cents, tea three dollars – other kinds of vegetables not to be had for love or money. Such is the condition of things in this section of the sunny South, as to edibles. Clothing is equally high, only more scarce and harder to obtain. Now as to the condition of the farmers and their farms. The country abounds in the most magnificent of plantations – extravagance and magnificence was their rule; nearly all the planter’s residences are palaces – they are all that art and wealth could bring forth. Before the rebellion this section was a paradise – now it presents a sad spectacle; hundreds of acres of land, well cultivated, but not a single rail or panel of fence left upon it. Many of their best residences stand stripped of their surrounding ornaments, without even a human soul or living animal to protect them. The people are all secesh and have fled from the wrath to come; they know no safety except within the rebel lines. In many, yes very many instances their flight has been so sudden and unexpected that they have left everything behind; houses well furnished with the best and most costly furniture are desolate and at the service and mercy of our soldiers – pianos, women’s clothing, and children’s dolls and toys are all left

behind. Better residences than any in the city of Aurora are today furnishing our generals headquarters and our wounded boys with elegant and convenient hospitals. Think you that this kind of use will enhance the comforts or value of the property? Not much, I apprehend. It may make it historic, but figures will fail to compute the damage. Destruction and utter desolation follow in the wake of all armies. Poor deluded people! How they have been imposed upon by the wicked leaders of this murderous rebellion. I cannot help but pity the ignorant and inexperienced; especially the women and children – poor creatures, many of them cradled in affluence are now exiles from their homes and comforts in mid winter. They are human and amendable to nature's laws, and therefore suffer. I am not giving you an overdrawn picture, but a truthful statement of things as they exist today. I tell you there is extreme suffering in the Southern Confederacy every day, notwithstanding their pretended independence and audacity. They are coming to grief daily. Thousands of them wish themselves back under the protection of the old flag. When there, they had wealth and happiness – now they have war, pestilence and poverty, the three go hand in hand and are certain accompaniments of armies. With these facts before our eyes, the question arises in all seriousness, do we of the free and happy North desire to change the theatre of our battlefields from the cotton fields of the South to the wheat and corn fields of the North? If we do not desire such a result, we want to see that our Legislators and secesh sympathizers do not carry their resolutions so far. Propositions of armistice and compromise are worse than madness; the irrepressible conflict is upon us – we cannot avoid it now. Compromise is played out. Fighting is the only remedy – one party or the other must be beaten, thoroughly whipped; slavery must either become universal or extinct notwithstanding President Lincoln's dreadful proclamation. Upon the North and East rests the responsibility of deciding how and where the question is to be settled. If they so elect, and will aid and stand by us, we can subdue the South, and fight the battles here; if they decide otherwise, the South can drive us back and make battlefields of the rich and beautiful prairies of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Iowa. I want them to bear in mind the condition this country is in now, and recollect that the same state of things will soon exist there, providing they allow the armies ever to occupy that country. Highfaluting resolutions and the proposition to organize negro regiments (\*) are mere bosh, and indicate the loyalty and patriotism of their authors. Both propositions indicate a lukewarmness and much cowardice. All the difference that I can see between the two is that one is much darker than the other; neither, nor both combined, can save our country. Time is flying – two years have already passed since the commencement of the rebellion and still our army has only penetrated as far as the border States. In one year more the term of enlistment of many of our troops expires, therefore it seems to me that our administration and military authorities

ought to see the necessity of action and immediate operations. This war ought to be carried into the cotton States immediately; there is where the rebellion lives, and the rich planters of the South are exerting themselves to keep the armies out of those States. They fully understand the condition of the country where the armies have passed, and know the consequence if we succeed in penetrating into their localities. We can and will go there, provided we are aided and sustained by the loyal States of the North. You will recollect, however, that before we can drive much farther we must have more help. We have too large a portion of our present force on detached service to accomplish much more. We have a very extensive line of communications to maintain and protect, which has absorbed fully one half of our army. We should and must have more men to take the place of those guards. They do not require to be drilled men. They should be organized and shoved forward immediately; they can drill at the various posts where they are stationed. Those that have been at the posts for the past six months ought now to be well drilled and fully competent to take any position. All that is now required to end this rebellion speedily is to give us men enough. Give Rosecrans the men and supplies and he will go to Charleston, S. C., or to Gibraltar. He is emphatically the right man in the right place. The boys have more confidence in him today than in the balance of the world. He is an army in himself – *he* whipped the rebels under Bragg at Murfreesboro – it was his own personal behavior and influence on the field that saved the day.

The weather here is beautiful; trees are budding, and spring is coming. The climate is delightful, and the country a paradise if properly managed. All that is required to make this the garden of the world is freedom and enterprise. The country contains the elements of greatness, and an enterprising people would soon develop them. The health of the troops here is good. We have no men in hospital except the wounded. Our Brigade is at Salem, four miles from here, and we are to return tomorrow. Everything is working well. Colonel Greusel has resigned, and leaves for home tomorrow. The boys regret to have him go; they know that he was their friend, and has their best wishes for his health and future happiness.

Tattle Tale.

(\*) “Tattle Tale” has evidently got “negro soldiers on the brain.” My dear boy, review your opinions to this question. See an article in the paper in answer to what has already been said by you. We do not think that arming the negroes will put down the rebellion, unless they do a “heap of good fighting,” no more that will the proclamation of freedom. If either proposition will help you in the least to worry the rebels, why not let them be put in force? Why get sweaty about that which cannot be helped? More men, *white men*, have got to take up arms against the rebellion, that is certain, and when called for they will be ready, notwithstanding

the efforts for “peace on any terms” and the resolutions of Legislatures and parties. Keep your courage up, my boy, and remember that the great heart of the North is loyal, and believe in putting the rebels to the sword. Some there are, who stand ready to betray the loyal cause, but dare to assume the open and decided attitude of traitors.

*EG, 3-4-1863*

### GREUSEL’S FAREWELL.

Below will be found Col. Greusel’s farewell address to the 36<sup>th</sup>. Some weeks since in publishing a letter of his containing an unsoldierly charge against other regiments, we remarked that it was reported that he was sick at the time of the battle and unable to be with his regiment, but it was probably a mistake. Upon this allusion to a report, the gallant Col. seizes and makes it a text for a characteristic philippic. It is certainly questionable taste to introduce such a paragraph into a farewell address, and probably no other great man would have done it. The Col. says no one of his men can complain of any acts of tyranny. We should like him to read some of the letters we are constantly receiving from officers and privates of the 36<sup>th</sup>. But as we never had any disposition to kick a “dead lion,” we dismiss the subject without further comment.

*EG, 3-4-1863*

### THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

Camp on Stone River, near Murfreesboro,  
Tenn., Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 1863.

Editor Gazette:

It is a dull, wet, disagreeable day, such a day as is calculated to carry out thoughts from this, a soldier’s life, to home and all its comforts. It has rained almost incessantly for the last two days, and last night the boys of Co. A got drowned out. The water stood nearly six inches deep in some of their tents, and

first they knew it was running over the blankets. Some of the boys took refuge on cracker boxes and got a line and went to "sounding," to see if they could find bottom. I was awakened by hearing some one of them cry "no bottom." Very soon the whole company were up ditching, and worked the large part of the last half of the night to keep their "houses" from floating away. Could our friends take a look at us this morning, as we paddle around in the mud ankle deep, or sit around the smoldering, smoking fires in the rain, shivering with the cold, they would not wonder why we exclaim, "Home, home, sweet, sweet home." Truly the papers are correct when they say Rosecrans' army is mud bound, for the roads which are usually very good in this country, being macadamized, are now, in consequence of neglect, and the constant use of which Uncle Sam has put them, in a very bad condition; and it would be next to impossible to move at the present time. I presume many persons think because we are lying still now that we are doing nothing, but such is far from the fact. On the contrary, the 36<sup>th</sup> never performed more duty than we have to now. On the fifth of this month our brigade was ordered out with four day's rations, without tents and only two kettles to a company, the convalescent remaining in camp. It was a very tedious day, snowing quite hard, and melting as fast as it came, making the roads very muddy, but the boys only sung and shouted the louder as they paddled through it. When about two miles out we were halted and compelled to stand for about one hour in the mud and storm, what for we knew not, but supposed it was some "red tape ceremony. But soon the word "forward" was given, and we advanced. Our destination proved to be the little town of Salem, some five miles from our present camp. As I before said, we only took four day's rations, expecting in that time we would be relieved, but instead we stayed nine days, and had rations been plenty we should not have grumbled much, for rails were plenty, and with these and the shelter tents the boys built themselves very comfortable quarters, as only soldiers can build with such materials. We all wondered very much why a brigade was sent there, for it would have been an easy matter for the secesh to have "gobbled them up," but knowing it was Rosecrans' order we were satisfied.

The conscripts came flocking in every day we were there, and I should judge over 200 came in whilst we were out. They report Bragg's army as very much discouraged, as he had promised to whip Rosecrans, and drive him from the States of Kentucky and Tennessee, and that promise gained him a great many recruits from those two States. But instead he got defeated and was obliged to fall back, and they say they will not leave their own States, consequently many are leaving every day. Bragg has been superceded by Joe Johnston, and he brought some of the rebel army from the Potomac with him and is confident of whipping "Rosey." But we have no fears for our army is stronger than it was before the bloody battle of "Stone River," and when "Rosey" gets ready nothing will stop him.

I had occasion to go out to the picket line one morning early whilst we were at Salem, and the Lieut. of the guard told me he had orders to search the house of a widow lady (all the ladies are widows here) just across the line at daybreak. So I accompanied him. It was said she secreted five secesh in the house while some of our men were in the yard, and there had been a secesh Captain there who claimed he was paroled, but left very suddenly one night, so Col. Greusel had reason to believe there might be something concealed there, but we found nothing. We had considerable sport, however during the search. The negroes rolled up the white of their eyes to see the Union "sogers" surround "Missus" house, and "Missus" was very loth to get up, and kept us waiting some half an hour before she would open the door, and when she did it was with a jerk, and she wanted to know if we considered ourselves gentlemen, to thus intrude upon the privacy of an unprotected widow lady. When we told her we had come to search her house, her rage knew no bounds. She called us low born Northern abolitionists, and supposed we had no more manners than to act thus. She said she hoped the Lieut. would go with the men, or she would have nothing left. There was a young lady there also who did not look upon us quite as lovingly as we like to have them, and we hope to receive a more cordial greeting from certain fair ones at home.

Well, after the nine days we were relieved, and expected a short rest, but the very next day the regiment was sent on picket, and had to stay 38 hours, in the rain and mud, so the boys began to think the "old 36<sup>th</sup>" was doing double duty. But those who ought to know say that Rosecrans has all his large army at work just the same, and he is throwing up some of the strongest fortifications near Murfreesboro ever built, so it seems that he has no idea of fighting this ground over again, but keeps all he gets, and gets all he can. If that had been the principle of all our Generals, this rebellion would have been much neared ended. We are looking anxiously for "Old Abe" to issue an order for a draft, and expect he soon will do it, for we need and must have more help, as we have so much guarding in the rear to do, whereas the rebels have very little, and consequently oppose us with their whole force. We can and will whip them if our friends at the North will help us, but we are sometimes most discouraged, and think if they don't care enough for our glorious country to turn in and help us for a short time now, when we have done so much and suffered so long, why, then let the country go up, and the Southern Confederacy be recognized.

I am very much surprised at the doings of some of the "Peace Democrats" of the North, and nothing would suit us better than to see them in the front ranks of this army. We consider them worse enemies than Jeff Davis and his army, and they want to keep a closed lip when the boys get home. Had it not been for the "fire in the rear" clique, this rebellion would have been ended ere this. But as long as they are permitted to go on the way they now do, it never will be I fear. The

boys in the army do not wish a compromise unless on our terms, and if you at home will all help us, in a short time we can bring them to those terms. We have the men and the means, if all were employed. Now will Uncle Abe make the trial, and that soon.

Col. Greusel has resigned, and left us, two or three days since. Lieut. Col. Jenks has command of the 36<sup>th</sup>, and Col. Frank Sherman of the 88<sup>th</sup> Illinois, has command of the brigade. I guess he will make a good commander, and is very well liked. Our regiment, as usual is very healthy, there being no one in the hospital, and only a few complaining. The wounded boys at Murfreesboro are nearly all doing well, but of course suffer very much, how much none can know unless with them for a while.

Our letters are very backward, and none of the Elgin boys have had a letter from there since Messrs. Sherman, Mallory, and Rosenkrans went home, and only one package of the Gazette has reached us since the battle. Co. B Cavalry boys are all well and camped very near us. If anything new transpires I will try and post you up.

Yours in haste, J. C. D.

*WS, 3/4/1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Camp Bradley, Tenn., Feb. 16, 1863.

EDITOR SENTINEL;

We still remain in camp, two and a half miles south of Murfreesboro, doing heavy duty of different kinds, mostly picket. Our brigade was relieved from picket yesterday, having been on duty ten days, and now we are in hopes to obtain a little rest.

It is with much regret that I communicate to you the fact that Col. Greusel has resigned. He started homeward yesterday morning. His sudden departure from us throws a gloom over the whole brigade, particularly the 36<sup>th</sup>.

Although no one can blame him for leaving, yet we had so much confidence in his unerring judgment in the hour of danger, that it was hard to give him up. He having always led us to victory, we had learned to feel that if he was with us all would go well. It is the anxious wish of the brigade that he may soon return to us, bearing upon each shoulder the star he has so nobly earned. Col. Sherman, of the 88<sup>th</sup> Illinois, is in command of the brigade.

Myron Harris died in Hospital no. 8, at Nashville, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January. J. H. Sackett also died from the effects of his wound since I wrote you. The rest of our wounded, as far as we know, are doing well, and will probably recover.

The weather continues wet, with occasionally a few cold days.

Paymasters have arrived, and I understand will commence dealing out "greenbacks" to Sheridan's division in a day or two.

Sentinels received occasionally.

Yours, Q. R.

*EG, 3-4-1863*

FIGHTING DRUMMER BOY. --- Our exchanges from different parts of the country, have more or less to say in praise of different drummer boys in the army, and we are now going to put in our claim for honors. When the old 36<sup>th</sup> regiment left camp in Aurora, in this State, Frank K. Mallory, prior to that time a "devil" in our office, went with it, in the capacity of Drummer Boy, in Co. G. For eighteen months he has been in the service, and has passed through all the hard fought battles in which the old 36<sup>th</sup> has been engaged. At Pea Ridge, Ark., when company G was detailed as skirmishers "Our Drummer Boy," threw away his drum, and with musket in hand, advanced with his company to the charge. At the battle of Perryville, Ky., he again took part, and at the fearful carnage of Murfreesboro, where the leaden hail was raining down destruction to so many of our brave men, Frank K. Mallory, the brave little fellow, refused to carry his drum, and although ordered to the rear, by Captain Longworth, at the commencement of the battle, was found with musket in hand, bravely fighting with his comrades, on the second day of the fight, and there remained dealing death to the enemy, and sharing the fortunes of his company during those four days of terrible fighting. Reader, this is the record "our drummer boy" has made, are you not proud he went forth to battle from Grundy?

---Grundy Co. Herald.

AB, 3-5-1863

### COL. GREUSEL

The Col. arrived in Aurora on Thursday last; he has tendered his resignation, and intends to retire from the service. His reasons for so doing we did not hear. – *Elgin Gazette*.

The editor of the *Gazette* will see in another column the reason why. Will he ----- have the magnanimity to ----- of the many injurious impressions he has suffered himself to set ----- with ----- to Col. Greusel, and take back his statement that Col. G. had no part in the battle of Murfreesboro. Be generous for once, Joslyn; correct your statement, and do justice to a brave man.

AB, 3-5-1863

### ARMY CORRESPONDENCE

Steamer *Empress*, at Memphis,  
Tenn., February 18, 1863.

Editor *Beacon*; Again today I have heard the roar of cannon and the bur-i-r of shell; but, I am most happy to say, without the usual wild shouting of maddened men, accompanied with blood and human misery. It was a pleasant little practice of a gunboat in the woods opposite the city. The cause of this was the appearance of rebel guerrillas on the Arkansas bank of the river. Yesterday there was a heavy fog settled upon the river, and it was impossible for some boats to run in a portion of the channel. It appears that a small stern-wheeler, (her name I cannot learn), with two barges in tow, making for this port, but in the growing darkness of the fog missed her way and ran close to the opposite bank, near a point of land about one mile above the landing. No sooner than she was near the shore than she was fired into, boarded by rebels and her crew captured, all but one, who was killed. She was then set afire and allowed to float down and sink under the very noses of our commander and our gunboats. Today they were seen and our gunboats gave them over a hundred shots, with what effect not known – none, I presume. This simply shows what audacious scoundrels, these guerillas are, and how great an inconvenience can be given by men who can gain the favors of our generals, entering their offices under pretence of gaining privileges for the Union people

who are persecuted in a rebel country – get their cotton shipped North and such goods as they desire shipped from the North to them. Can it be helped?

I saw the boys of the 36<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Company, formerly Captain Jenks' company, this afternoon. They are encamped just in the edge of the city, where mud is in abundance; Capt. George A. Willis is in command and expects to leave the city in a week or so with his company. The boys are all in fine spirits and pretty good health. They have been paid once lately, and get two months more pay tomorrow. They hope to be sent to Vicksburg, where they think they may see active service. Little Doc. Ferree, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut., thinks their destination is about forty five miles through the mud to La Grange. They don't want to go home before their time is out – at least so said a Benton Robinson, a fat, hearty boy, who fears he might get homesick if he went home; "soldiering is getting so rough, and they are used to it now." From my own knowledge I can agree with him there.

Many boats have come from the fleet lately, and more are running between here and Vicksburg than formerly, so I expect to find better supplies with the troops.

Elmer.

*GCH, 3-11-1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> REG. – We received a letter from the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment on Saturday. The boys were in good health and spirits; we also received the order of Gen. Rosecrans to his soldiers, in relation to the observance of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February – Washington's Birthday. It was a beautiful order, breathing the spirit of a true patriot and soldier. Gen. Rosecrans, is worshipped by his men, and under him, they imagine they can do anything in the line of whipping rebels. There has also been a change of regimental officers in the 36<sup>th</sup>. Col. Jenks has been ousted. Major Miller, will in all probability be Colonel of the regiment. This suits our boys.

*AB, 3-12-1863*

COL. GREUSEL'S FAREWELL.

Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Div.,  
Camp Bradly, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, 1863

*To the Officers and Soldiers of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ill:*

Fellow Soldiers; -- I am now about to leave you for a short time to recruit my health. It was impossible for me to obtain a furlough of some sufficient length to do me any good, and consequently I was obliged to resign. It is my intention to remain away only long enough to recruit my health. Wherever I may be, or what ever I may do, I will never forget the five hard fought, closely contested battles through which I had the honor of leading you.

My brave boys, you know I have never forsaken you in the hour of danger. You know I stood by your side and saw your brave comrades shot down, until to have remained longer would have been annihilation to the 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Although I may have been a strict disciplinarian, I feel assured that not a man of you will say I have been tyrannical; for boys, next to my family; I love you my heroes. We all have our enemies at home. In your own county is a man who publishes a paper, who has the imprudence to say that at the battle of Stone River I was unwell and consequently not on the field of battle. My boys, you know whence that slander comes, and we will treat it accordingly. Such men are worse than our enemy in front, for these we know and can prepare for, but such dastards as the others, who do not cherish enough love for our stars and stripes to come and fight by your side, are at home backbiting those who answered the first call, and up to this time have been in the field.

I volunteered in this regiment to see the end of this rebellion, with you, and then we could go home together, if there were not more than a dozen of us. I should have deemed it one of the greatest honors to have been one of your number. I am no longer a young man. This is my second war; for eighteen months I was in the Mexican war, during which time we were without tents, and there I became a victim of a disease which still has its hold upon me and affects me seriously. I greatly need rest and when I feel better, should God spare my life, I may again return and lead you on once more to victory.

Now if you respect your old commander, permit him to go home in peace, for a while, at least. Should you meet the enemy in my absence, look aloft to your glorious flag, filled with victory now, and think of Bentonville, Lee Town, Pea Ridge, Chaplin Hills, and Stone River. Remember also your brave companies A and B cavalry at Iuka and Corinth. Think of those boys, for they think of you. And proudly may you go home, and be proud to say that you belonged to the 36<sup>th</sup> Reg't Ill. Vols., and you find you will have an immortal name.

Now boys, although it costs me many a pang of regret, I must bid you all farewell. May we soon meet in better circumstances, is my prayer.

Truly Yours,  
Late Col. 36<sup>th</sup> Reg't Ill. Vols.

N. Greusel

*EG, 3-18-1863*

### TESTIMONIAL TO COL. GREUSEL.

At a meeting of the officers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Div., 20<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, held at Camp Greusel, near Salem, Tenn., February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1863, on motion of Capt. Olson, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Inf., Lieut. Col. A. D. Chadbourne, 88<sup>th</sup> Ill., commanding Brigade was chosen Chairman, and J. Seymour Ballard, A. A. G. 1<sup>st</sup> Brig., Secretary.

A committee was appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the officers of the Brigade on the resignation of Col. N. Greusel, composed of the following officers:

Lieut. Col. Albert Jenks, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., Capt. R. H. Austin, 24<sup>th</sup> Wis., Capt. John A. Bross, 88<sup>th</sup> Ill. and Lieut. B. D. Fox, Act. Insp. Gen., 21<sup>st</sup> Mich.

The following preamble and resolutions were presented and unanimously accepted:

WHEREAS – Col. N. Greusel of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Regiment, and acting Brigadier General of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Div., 20<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Dept. of the Cumberland, has tendered his resignation of the position, he has held with honor to himself and the service, and the same having been accepted, for reasons satisfactory to the Government, and

WHEREAS – In parting with our honored commander, the officers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade feel it a duty, as well as a pleasure, to express their sentiments of regard for Col. Greusel as well as their convictions upon this event, and therefore

*RESOLVED* – That, in the resignation of Col. Greusel the Government has lost the services of a skillful, brave and competent officer. No words of ours can add to a reputation won at Pea Ridge, Perryville and Stone River.

*RESOLVED* – That the officers of this Brigade regret exceedingly the necessity which led Col. Greusel to resign his position, and hereby tender to him the strongest evidence of our regard and esteem.

*RESOLVED* – That, having held the position of Acting Brigadier General for more than a year past, and having earned by his skill and devotion to the interest of the country, the actual as well as the nominal position – raising a company of volunteers for the Government should honor itself and do justice to Col. Greusel by giving him a Brigadier General's Commission.

*RESOLVED* – That a copy of these resolutions be signed by the officers and presented to Colonel Greusel.

A. J. Chadbourn.  
Chairman.

J. Seymour Ballard, Sec.

*AB, 3-19-1863*

### A PRESENT TO COL. GREUSEL FOR BRAVERY ON THE BATTLEFIELD

Immediately after the battle of Murfreesboro, Col. Greusel received the following note, accompanied by the present mentioned therein. It was a gift of the gentleman residing in Boston, Mass., with instructions that the case and gun be given to the Colonel of the regiment that displayed the greatest gallantry and courage upon the battlefield. The glorious charge made by the 36<sup>th</sup>, and the terrible punishment received by the enemy there from, decided in the mind of the donor to whom the tribute to bravery should be given. The pistol is a two inch revolver, splendidly mounted with silver and ivory;

Camp near Murfreesboro, Tenn.,  
January 14<sup>th</sup>, 1863

*Col. N. Greusel, Commanding 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Div.*

Dear Sir; Permit me to present to you, on behalf of my father, this case and pistol, for your courage and bravery at the battle of Stone River, Tenn. Knowing sir, that you are the bravest of the brave; standing as you did by your noble Regiment, the 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Until forty one laid down their lives for their glorious country, and one hundred and fifty were wounded by the rebel hordes under Gen. Withers, whom you fiercely drove from the field at the point of the bayonet.

I am sir, truly yours,  
Frank H. Schnider

*EG, 3-25-1863*

### FROM THE ARMY.

In the absence of any great movement in the armies of the West, our correspondents in the various Regiments give us some account of their condition and feelings.

One of the boys of the 36<sup>th</sup>, after speaking of matters which we have published, refers to present movements as follows:

Our regiment has been on a scout several days. We expect them in soon. Their tents are here. We know not where they are. We have heard several rumors about their being engaged near Franklin. Camp rumors go in at one ear and out at the other. We will know what they have been up to when they get back, and not before. The department which I am engaged in, is commanded by J. C. D. We did not have to go with the regiment. We are in camp here; things quite comfortable. J. C. D. is getting to be quite a favorite in the regiment. If he continues in this line of business until his time is out, he will be quite an M. D.

I often think, as do many of the boys, will this war ever end? I hope not until the South shall come to our terms, and not we to theirs. I often hear the boys while standing around their camp fires use the expression "Bully for the Conscription Act – hope they'll send the old 36<sup>th</sup> up North to enforce it." I firmly believe if they should be sent for that purpose, they would make the Copperheads get for tall timber.

Capt. G. D. Sherman is acting Major. We expect him to be commissioned as such soon. He is worthy of the position as any one in this army. He has earned any position that will be given him. The boys are in as good spirits as could be expected, and are willing to fight to the end, if they can be supported by those at home! Death to the Copperheads when the boys get home! They had better find a home beyond the big seas, or get their heads insured at once, what are left of them.

The Elgin boys are all well as far as I know at present. There will be a lively time here when our regiment is filled with conscripts. I think our boys will run the thing according to their own notion.

We are happy to say we are on the down hill side of our time; expect to be home when the last half of our time is out, and not before. When that time happens we will give Elgin a call.

We have been greatly indebted to our friends for extracts from private letters, which has given us a great variety of army correspondence. An interesting note from a friend in Dundee is gratefully acknowledged, and the extract cheerfully inserted. It breathes the right spirit.

"If it were not for the sneaking, shirking, treacherous, snake-in-the-grass

peace men at the north, this war would be wound up in the coming campaign. *I hope it will be anyway*, but traitors in the rear are ten times more to be feared than open enemies. If they would only show their true colors, we would show them the composition of our mettle. The time is coming when those brave and true soldiers who have stood up for the defense of the country in her greatest peril will wipe out the insulting slurs about “wishing to close the war on any terms.” Oh! How ridiculous to think that the old scar worn soldiers, want to go home, back out, and say, do with us as you please, we will fight no more, put your feet upon our necks, we are your slaves now and forever.”

This is no more or less than Vallandigham asks of the dough faces of the North. No! I would rather enlist for life than have peace on any such terms. I think the “peace rebels” are backing down some of late, and it is prudent, too, for them; for should the time ever come, (which I don’t believe ever will,) that the present volunteer soldiery should be ordered to the North to put down home traitors, it would be better for them that a millstone were hinged about their necks, and they dropped into the bottomless pit.

The health of the old troops is remarkably good; the times for the last month look brighter than before – all will yet be well.

I am in good spirits and enjoy good health, since my return to the regiment, which has now been gone five days to Tusculumbia, Alabama. I am in command of Q. M. D.

I should like much to have been with you at the concert for the Soldier’s Aid Society; and better at the home circle, when all but *one* were together. Better still will it be when we *hope* all to meet with no more war – but all *peace* with a *country*.”

“Bully for the Conscription Law,” is heard around the camp fires of all the old “regiments.” They have a pride in seeing the ranks full, and this law will fill them up. We trust the old soldiers will receive the new recruits cordially and treat them as equals, otherwise there will be trouble in the camp. Thousands of as good patriots as ever drew breath have not thought it their duty to enlist, but they will go cheerfully under the draft and it will not do for the veterans to treat them as conscripts. Let all work heartily together and bring the war to a speedy close.

## FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Camp Bradley, Tenn., March 16, 1863.

EDITOR SENTINEL;

The third Division of the 20<sup>th</sup> army corps left Camp Bradley on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, with four days rations.

The weather, though not cold, was disagreeable, and before noon we experienced quite a little snow storm. We crossed over to the Salem Pike, and commenced our journey southward. In the vicinity of a little town, called Eaglesville, were known to exist rebel camps, and our object in visiting the place was to learn more of them. Our cavalry soon found secesh pickets, and at them they went, chasing them double quick towards their camp. A race of nearly five miles brought them in sight of camp, two and a half miles south of Eaglesville. With drawn sabers and a yell they charged into the camp which caused the copper-bottoms to skedaddle in the direction of Shelbyville, as fast as horses could carry them, leaving everything behind. All their camp equipage, teams, wagons, etc., were captured, together with between fifty and sixty prisoners.

Our brigade encamped that night two miles this side of town. The next morning, about 10 o'clock, cannonading commenced west of us, and lasted for over two hours. We afterwards learned that it was the unfortunate brigade commanded by Col. Coburn, and sent out by Gen. Gilbert to be taken prisoners, the particulars of which you are doubtless well acquainted with.

This Gen. Gilbert is the same who commanded a corps under Buell. Then he sported two stars upon each shoulder, but I noticed he has accidently lost one! How long must such men command our armies? He may not be a traitor; but if he is loyal, he is certainly incompetent. The loss of that brigade, of course, caused some alarm in that direction, and we were soon ordered by Gen. Granger to come to Franklin, where we arrived on Sunday, the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Accompanied by part of Gen. Grainger's command, our division started next morning towards Columbia. Some skirmishing took place between cavalry, but we drove the rebels across Duck River, nineteen miles from Franklin, they refusing to give us battle, and after scouting around the country for two days, we returned to Franklin, stopped there over night, and next morning started for our old camp, where we arrived on Saturday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, having marched 125 miles.

Lieut. Col. Jenks, and our Surgeon, Dr. Young, have both resigned and gone home. David Wilcox is sick in Hospital, though not dangerous. The rest of Co. H are in usual health. Sentinels received very irregularly.

Q. R.

*GCH, 4-8-1863*

MONEY. – The members of Company G. 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, have sent to Captain Longworth, of this city, over \$1,400 to be distributed to their friends in this county. Walk up and get your cash.

*GCH, 4-8-1863*

A NOBLE ACT. – While the members of the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment have shown themselves to be veteran soldiers of the bravest kind, they have always been noted for their kindness of heart. At the battle of Perryville, Ky., where so many brave fellows fell, Wm. Galloway, of Co., G. was struck by a ball which tore away a portion of his jaw, and robbed him of most of his teeth. His wound was so serious that Will was deemed in a precarious situation for a long time. He finally recovered, but a examination by the hospital Surgeon, disclosed the unwelcome fact that Will could not long remain in the service, as his “masticating apparatus” was so seriously damaged as to prevent him from getting a living upon “hard crackers,” and other harder Government “fodder.” Therefore, Will was honorably discharged from the service and sent home to live on “spoon victuals.” His noble comrades of Company G. last week sent him a present of \$67, with which to in a measure, repair damages to his teeth. It is a noble offering to the worth and esteem in which Wm. Galloway, is held by his old companions, and speaks in trumpet tones of the humanity and goodness of heart of the members of Co. G.

*WS, 4-8-1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Camp Bradley, Tenn., March 23, 1863.

EDITOR SENTINEL:

Having received letters of inquiry as to how the soldiers like the President's Emancipation Proclamation. I will answer, through the columns of the Sentinel, that our friends in McHenry County, may all know how we feel about it. And also, what we think of Northern Copperheads.

As far as my observation goes, I can say, without fear of successful

contradiction, that nine tenths of the army approve of it, and will uphold the President in his great war measure.

There are many Democrats in the army, who are taught to look upon the institution of slavery with reverence, but finding it was the very life blood of the rebellion, their reverence for it speedily evaporated, and like all the soldiers in the field, are, if you choose, somewhat Abolitionized. At least, they are ready to fight Copperheads in Illinois, Indiana or Ohio, and to carry this war wherever treason may render it necessary. We feel chilled and dishonored by the actions of these Northern cravens with Southern hearts, who are foully plotting to draw our great and prosperous west into the hellish maelstrom of secession and despotism, anarchy and dissolution. Could they see the results, as we have in Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee – houses, crops, forests and inhabitants all vanish; naught is left but a desert where brother shoots at brother from every bush – where women and children have no shelter, no protection but in the ever present rifle.

Such is the condition of our country where war and guerillas rage. Do the Butternuts of the Northwest wish these results to visit their homesteads? If so, on their own heads be the curse forever.

We must fight this war out, in honor to ourselves and the Union, or be forever taunted as cravens, who knew their duty but did it not. The chivalry must and shall be whipped into a decent respect for us, or peace never more enters our borders. The “mudsills,” their superiors but whom they profess much to despise, must and will show them their superiority in endurance and tenacity.

Traitors only, talk of an armistice so that their friend Jeff can get provisions, clothing, arms and money from abroad to feed his starving and mutinous subjects, now in their direst need. Peace, it may mean peace now – peace for a few years, perhaps, but it also means war forever after. There is no medium ground, either this nation will remain one and indivisible, all nations looking to it, as the refuge of the oppressed, as heretofore, and drawing inspirations of the freedom they hope for, in every fold of its glorious flag or it will split into fragments like a shell, spreading ruin and desolation among the innocent and guilty alike; burying freedom fathoms deep, and leaving naught but petty warring states, forts, bastilles and despotisms, eternally seceding and scoffed by mankind; while high above all will be gibbeted for scorn, by an outraged people and world, whose traitors, worse than Benedict Arnold, who cry “Peace, peace, when there is no peace.”

We believe the Proclamation has a good effect upon all who are fighting earnestly to crush this infernal rebellion. We are for war to the bitter end. We are in favor of the Proclamation. Our enemies have taught us in a cruel treacherous and murderous school, to use any lawful means to gain the victory. And so we say, arm the Negro or use him in the most profitable way we can. The rebels use them

in every way they dare to. They are afraid to arm them generally, or they would. Here, in Tennessee, the Negroes are doing the work, supporting the family, while the heads are off in the bush watching for the opportunity to catch some straggling soldier outside of our lines.

In my last I had failed to mention that we had drawn two month's pay again.

It is with regret that I am compelled to announce the death of David Wilcox. He died on the 20<sup>th</sup>, after a short illness.

The remainder of the boys are in their usual health.

Weather cool and threatening rain.

I remain yours, &c., Q. R.

WS, 4-8-1863

### FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Camp Bradley, Tenn., March 29, 1863.

EDITOR SENTINEL:

Once more I sit me down to pen you a few lines. Many changes have been made in the old 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois since my last.

Major Silas Miller is now Colonel, or will be when he is exchanged. Capt. Porter Olsen is to be Lieut. Colonel, and Capt. George Sherman now wears the yellow leaves. If ever the boys were well pleased with their officers, they are now. If the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois ever was manned with kind and obliging officers, now is the time; they are young in years but old in experience.

Greusel has finally put his threat into execution, and resigned. I do not know as we are truly without any head, as some thought we should be, should he leave. I have found that where an officer gets the star fever on the brain, so severely that he would sacrifice all of the brave boys under his command to get it, the sooner he leaves the better, Our ex-surgeon writes of Greusel as follows; "Our stars seem distant, I fear we shall not reach them. The American Eagle is a pretty bird, and seems doomed to sit upon his perch."

Ford still commands Company H, and although I am not there often, I think he suits quite well.

Jack Wolfe has got back to the Company, having quite recovered from the ugly wound he received at Perryville. It does me good to see the boys returning.

Hovey Chittenden has arrived, looking well. I mistrust he looks better than he feels, and I don't blame him for loving New Albany, where he has long enjoyed all the comforts of home, with a wife and everything to make him happy; to come

out here, and like the big Dutchman, shoulder his musket, is not what it is cracked up to be, by recruiting officers; still I think it will do him good to gall for the old flag awhile.

Sam Carver has again presented himself for rations; he has had a tedious time during his absence, having been sick all the time.

By the latest advice from Louisville we learn that Pony (Ed. Kapple) is a druggist in the hospital. He received a severe wound at Perryville, and I am glad he has got a good berth. When this Crimea is over, I should advise Messrs. Davis, Northrup & Co. to secure his services, for he used to be a staver to saw wood for the Northwestern, to put down the throat of their locomotives, and I am sure he can put up prescriptions admirably. I do not know how well he understands physic, but at Pea Ridge and Perryville he gave a great many blue pills, and I am certain many took effect.

It may be that the sick at Keokuk, Iowa, get plenty of vegetables, I do not doubt it, there is no reason why they should not, but I don't think Fred has any reference to any other hospital than the one where he was. Would it not be a good plan to send some vegetables to the well boys, and keep them well?

We think there is an abundance of onions, potatoes, and the like, in McHenry County, to feed all her sons, and when you consider that there are only about twenty of us in Company H, now present, I am surprised that something has not been done. I do not wish to see any comfort taken from our sick or wounded, here or elsewhere.

I was told last night that Charley Crawford had received a box. I shall have to see him.

Our Division is on picket duty now, I should not be surprised at having another battle here soon; the rebs try our pickets every day.

More anon from Sinbad

*AB, 4-9-1863*

#### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SICK AND WOUNDED

Headquarters, Department  
of the Cumberland.  
Murfreesboro, Feb. 2, 1863

The General commanding presents his warmest acknowledgements to the friends of the soldiers of this army, whose generous sympathy with the suffering of the sick and wounded has induced them to send for their comfort numerous sanitary supplies, which are continually arriving by the hands of individuals and charitable societies. While he highly appreciates and does not undervalue the charities which have been lavished on this army, experience has demonstrated the importance of system and impartiality, as well as judgment and economy, in the forwarding and distribution of these supplies. In all these respects the United States Sanitary Commission stands unrivalled. Its organization, experience and large facilities for the work are such that the General does not hesitate to recommend, in the most urgent manner, all those who desire to send sanitary supplies to confide them to the care of this commission.

They will thus insure the supplies reaching their destination without wastage, or expense of agents or transportation, and that being distributed in a judicious manner without disorder or interference with the regulations and usage of the service.

The commission acts in full concert with the medical department of the army and enjoys its confidence. It is thus enabled with a few agents to do a large amount of good at the proper time and in the proper way. Since the battle of Stone's River, it has distributed a surprisingly large amount of clothing, lint, bandages, an bedding as well as milk, concentrated beef, fruit and other sanitary stores, essential to the recovery of the sick and wounded.

W. S. Rosecrans  
*Maj.Gen. Com'dg Dept.*

*AB, 4-9-1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> PRISONERS

---

Since going to press we have received the following letter from "Camp Parol," which we insert in such papers as are not yet printed;

Parole Camp, Annapolis,  
Maryland, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> 1863

Eds. Beacon; -- Enclosed you will find a partial list of officers names confined in the prison at Atlanta, Ga. Major Silas Miller made out the list and wishes me to send it to you if I could get it north. I saw them the 7<sup>th</sup> of January and they were all well then, with the exception of their wounds, which were doing well at that time. Major Miller wishes me to say that they were all in good spirits and all that they ask is to be exchanged, and to have another chance at the rebels. There is between seventy and eighty officers confined there altogether.

Yours with Respect,  
Dwight L. Smith  
Co. I, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vols.

#### PRISONERS FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILL.

Major Silas Miller; Capt. Frank Campbell, Co. B; Capt. A. Hobbs Co. E; Capt. O. B. Merrill Co. I; Lieutenant Wakeman Co. A; Lieut. Smith Co. H; Lieut. Elliot Co. K.

Col. Swanwick, 21<sup>st</sup> Ill; Col. Dun , 21<sup>st</sup> Ind; W. S. Wood, 34<sup>th</sup> Ill; Lieut. A. Hess, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ind; Lieut. Col. R. R. Stuart, do; Lieut. James H. Blodgett, 75<sup>th</sup> Ill; Capt. A. McMore, do; Lt. Col. D. Hapsman, 104<sup>th</sup> Ill; Maj. John H. Widner, do; Capt. Chris Beck, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ind; Capt. John U. Kreidler, Co. E, 108<sup>th</sup> Ohio; Lieut. E. Barre, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ind. Cav; Lt. Joseph Kern, do; Lt. J. W. Hutson, do; Lieut. D. Parsons, do; Lieut. A. Hess, do; Lieut. Geo. W. Dalt, do; Lieut. W. W. Bush, do; Lieut. J. B. Williams, do; Capt. D. A. Briggs, do; Lieut. Thos Barr, do; Lieut A. E. McCormick, 51<sup>st</sup> Ill.; Capt. Albert G. Bell, 4<sup>th</sup> Mich.; Lieut. A. W. Billings, 106<sup>th</sup> Ohio.

*EG, 4-15-1863*

#### ARMY CORRESPONDENCE.

#### FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

“Sinbad” the correspondent of the Woodstock Sentinel writes about the 36<sup>th</sup> as follows:

Camp Bradley, Tenn, March 29,  
1863.

EDITOR SENTINEL:

Once more I sit me down to pen you a few lines. Many changes have been made in the old 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois since my last.

Major Silas Miller is now Colonel or will be when he is exchanged. Captain Porter Olson is to be Lieut. Col., and Capt. Geo. Sherman now wears the yellow leaves. If ever the boys were well pleased with their officers they are now. If the 36<sup>th</sup> ever was manned with kind and obliging officers, now is the time; they are young in years but old in experience.

Greusel has finally put his threat to execution and resigned. I do not know as we are truly without a head, as some thought we should be, should he leave. I have found that where an officer gets the star fever on the brain, so severely that he would sacrifice all the brave boys under his command to get it, the sooner he leaves the better. Our ex-surgeon writes of Greusel as follows: "Our Stars seem distant, I fear we shall not reach them. The American Eagle is a pretty bird, and seems doomed to sit upon his perch."

*WS, 4-15-1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Camp Schaefer, Tenn., April 2, 1863

EDITOR SENTINEL:

Since writing you, we have abandoned camp and pitched our tents near Salem pike, about a mile and a half west of the old camp and not quite so far from town as before.

Gen. Rosecrans reviewed our division on the afternoon of the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, and expressed himself well pleased with our appearance. He was looking well and seemed in fine spirits. I think if "Jeff's boys" conclude to come this way, they will find him here, and ready to meet them. I suppose our friends at home are daily expecting to hear of another battle near Murfreesboro; and if half the reports we get in camp were true, their expectations may soon be realized; but knowing that it is not their style to attack, we remain perfectly easy.

The army is in good sanitary condition, and good feeling generally prevails.

The receiving of four month's pay has had a marked effect upon this army, and the boys seem much more contented than before. I suppose we will soon get two month's more pay, as the army is to be paid to March.

All of Co. H are in usual health. The weather has been cold and disagreeable for the past few days. Sentinel of March 25<sup>th</sup> received.

Yours truly, Q. R.

*GCH, 4-15-1863*

PROMOTED. – Linus J. Austin, who left here as Orderly Sergeant of Co. G, 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, has received his commission as Captain of the Company. Bully for Linus!

*GCH, 4-15-1863*

RETURNED. – Wm. Severance, another of the wounded at the battle of Murfreesboro, returned home last week. One by one, the brave boys who left us in health and strength, are returning maimed and bruised – some to recover, others to carry their injuries through life, a testimony to their valor, a mark of their honorable service. It is sad to see them maimed. Would to God they might all return to their vigor.

*GCH, 4-22-1863*

DISCHARGED SOLDIERS !

A BOUNTY FOR YOU

By a new act of Congress, Bounty is due discharged soldiers. Call or send by mail to

E. SANFORD  
Licensed Soldier's Claim Agent, Morris, Ill.

WS, 4-22-1863

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Camp Schaefer, Tenn., April 10, 1863.

EDITOR SENTINEL:

Nothing of an exciting nature is transpiring in this part of Secessia of date, although rumors of a battle soon – of Longstreet in Kentucky, together with a later report that Charleston is taken, furnish plenty of conversational items.

Regiments seem vying with each other in the ornamenting of their camps and parade grounds. Cleanliness is the first thing to be considered, and then the ingenious planting of shrubbery.

Two rows of cedar boughs generally adorn each company street – one is set in front of the line of tents and the other opposite; those remaining green furnish a fine appearance. Some of the officers tents are tastefully contrived, and it might puzzle a stranger to find an entrance. As a whole they improve the looks of our camps very much.

Wednesday night, after the usual ceremony of dress parade, Capt. Olsen, in behalf of the officers in the regiment, presented Surgeon Pierce and our Chaplain, Rev. Wm. B. Haigh, each with a beautiful dress sword. Appropriate speeches were made by each, and it was the occasion of a general good time. Chaplain Haigh, although he has not been with us long, has won the respect of the entire regiment; I doubt whether he has a single enemy among us. I often hear it said, “We have the best Chaplain in the Army.”

Paymasters have commenced paying our division again, and we expect it will soon be our turn.

There was a light frost yesterday morning, but the days are getting considerably warmer.

Company H is in good health.  
Sentinels of April 1<sup>st</sup> received.

Yours, Q.R.

*AB, 4-30-1863*

Camp near Murfreesboro,  
Tenn., March, 1863

Rev. Chester Reeder – Dear Sir;

Hearing that reports have been circulated in Aurora calculated to reflect on the conduct of your son Carvosso, a member of Co. C, 36<sup>th</sup> Reg., during the battle of Stone River. I wish as commander of the company at that time, to make the following statement; Carvosso was detailed by special order of Col. Greusel, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 1862, as Reg. clerk, and acted in that capacity until Col. Greusel assumed command of a brigade, when he went to brigade headquarters as clerk, and remained there after the lamented General Sill took command of the brigade and Col. Greusel was ordered back to his regiment. On several occasions when the regiment went on a scout, Carvosso obtained leave of Gen. Sill to rejoin his company during the scout, (which by the way, he was under no obligation to do).

On the morning of the battle he came to me and asked permission to be placed in the company ranks beside his brother Walter, which request I granted. Your son fought in this battle heroically. Braver boys never stood side by side in such a contest. Our regiment fell back in considerable confusion when overpowered by the enemy, and while falling back the brothers were separated, and Carvosso, hearing that his brother was severely wounded started in search of him through a shower of lead, and while caring for his wounded brother was taken prisoner and paroled.

You may rest assured that his courage is not doubted here; but on the other hand he is severely censured who would try to destroy the character of a brave young man, and by so doing wound the feelings of his parents.

Very respectfully yours,  
Jno. M. Trumbull,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Co. C, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.

**Expedition toward Columbia, Tennessee, March 4-14, 1863**

*AB 5-7-1863*

FROM COMPANY B, CAVALRY, 36<sup>th</sup> REG.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.,  
April 14, 1863

Editor Beacon; Yesterday morning Company B “fell in” for pay, and marched down opposite the officers’ tent, and there awaited the appearance of Captain Sam. As he made his appearance, 1<sup>st</sup> Sergt. Duncan stepped forward and, accompanying the following words, presented him with a beautiful saber;

Capt. Sherer; “It is with sincere pleasure that I undertake the pleasant duty imposed on me today. Your friends, the non-commissioned officers and privates of Company B, cavalry, 36<sup>th</sup> Regt. Ill. Vols., fully appreciating the energy and fidelity with which you have ever discharged your duty to them and your country, in this her hour of need, have requested me to present you with this beautiful saber. In receiving it let me add, in your position as our Captain, with these testimonials of our regard girded about your waist, my you ever remember a soldier’s watch word should be duty, and may you never even for a moment falter in the high and honorable discharge of yours whatever it may be – and you will ever bear the best respects of our company.”

Captain Sherer replied in the following brief speech.

My Fellow Soldiers; “When I learned but a moment since that this presentation was intended, it was with emotions of the utmost surprise and yet of the most grateful pleasure. Words can but illy express the pride and satisfaction with which I receive this token of your esteem. It has been the height of my ambition, while endeavoring to discharge fearlessly and impartially my whole duty as an officer, to secure the confidence and respect of those whom I have had the honor to command. This beautiful gift is tone of inestimable value to me, not as much because of its intrinsic worth, but because it is a proof of your regard. Comrads, I feel proud of your reputation, and still more so than I know you will maintain it. While I have life, health and strength to wield this saber, I shall be with you and remain one of you. Should it again be my fortune to lead you on the bloody field of battle, I sincerely hope to do nothing to show myself unworthy of your kindness, or of the trust you have reposed of me. And should our country again be blessed with an honorable peace, and we return in safety to the avocations of civil life, I trust no soldier of this command will ever pass my house without coming to exchange a friendly greeting with me, and to view the many pleasing associations of our services together, as well as of the privations we have endured and the dangers through which we have passed. Once again, my friends, let me thank you.”

Member.

*AB, 5-7-1863*

### LETTERS TO THE SOLDIERS.

Write as tenderly as you will. In camp the roughest man idolizes his far off home, and every word of love uplifts him to a lover. But let your tenderness unfold its sunny side, and keep the shadows of his pity who knows the end from the beginning, and whom no foreboding, can dishearten.

Glory in your tribulation. Show your soldier that his unflinching courage, his undying fortitude, are your crown of rejoicing. Incite him to enthusiasm by your inspiration. Make a mock of your discomforts. Be unwearying in the details of the little interests of home. Fill your letters with kittens and canaries, with baby shoes, and Johnny's sled, and the cloak which you have turned into a handsome gown. Keep him posted in all the village gossip, the lectures, the courtings, the sleigh rides and the singing schools. Bring out the good points of the world into strong relief. Tell him every sweet and brave and pleasant and funny story you can think of. Show him that you clearly apprehend that all this warfare means peace, and that a dastardly peace would pave the way for speedy, incessant and more appalling warfare.

*AB, 5-7-1863*

### LETTER FROM CO. A. CAVALRY, 36<sup>th</sup> REG.

A Visit to Secessia  
Memphis, Tenn., April 24, 1863

Dear Beacon; Having just returned from a march into Secessia, under a flag of truce, I will busy myself a few moments by relating to you a few incidents of our journey. Company A, cavalry, 36<sup>th</sup>, always ready for a fight with anything in the shape of rebels at five minutes notice, started south on Tuesday morning the 1<sup>st</sup>, with four days rations, in company with about four hundred other cavalry, two batteries of artillery and four regiments of infantry, making in all, a force of over -- -- men. Our destination was supposed to be Coldwater Bayou, thirty five miles south of Memphis, via Hernando, where we were expecting to reinforce our troops which had been fighting there on Sunday, the 16<sup>th</sup>. Sunday's fight had proved a failure, though not very disasterous. The rebels lost one man killed and two wounded. Ours, the loss of a Major of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wis. Cavalry, and three privates

killed, and several wounded. But after two hours march, we met our troops returning, bringing with them sixty prisoners, and quite a number of mules and horses captured at Hernando. A sufficient number of troops were left to guard the prisoners in town, and the rest wheeled and went with us back to Hernando. The cavalry was in command of Major J. G. Watson and Co. A. of course took the advance.

On the way to Hernando, about ten miles out, we were met by a flag of truce party from the rebel army. We received their message, which was an apology from the rebel General Chalmers for his men firing into one of our ambulances and killing a wounded man – and gave them thirty minutes to retrace their steps. We then advanced, skirmishing the woods as we proceeded, until sunset. Their flag and rear guard remained in view until dark. On going into a camp, a squad of skirmishers were sent to the house of Captain Foster, rebel, some three miles off the road. He and some others had just left, in too much haste to mount their horses. One of our boys took possession of Capt. Foster's horse, and the rest brought in mules and niggers.

Wednesday morning we arose at daybreak, rushed into Hernando, nabbed a few straggling "limberlegs," and strolled around town at our leisure until four o'clock, viewing the ruins of the previous day, and such vandalism was a disgrace to any army. Hernando had been quite a pretty town; now its splendid court house and most of its finest buildings are laid in ashes. We were fully justified in burning the court house, as it had been used as a rebel picket post, but the burning of the best of the town was barbarous in the extreme, and undoubtedly done by straggling infantry.

At four o'clock a flag of truce arrived from Memphis, to be bourn to the rebel General Chalmers, and Company A was ordered to carry it through. This was highly gratifying to us, and in our company every man was in his saddle. We started thirty in number, the sum total of the well ones of the company, officered by Major Watson, Capt. Willis and Lieut. Ferree. It was sunset when we reached Coldwater. A single rebel picket was in view and he fled in an instant. The trees showed that hot work had been done there on Sunday, and hotter it would have been had our troops been able to cross the bayou or plant their guns. Our side was one dense forest and theirs was the same, except about an acre of fallen timber, and behind the large logs and stumps lay the rebel sharp shooters where they could take dead aim at every man who made his appearance. Thus a few of their men were too much for a large number of ours, and a hasty retreat on our part was a wise plan. The water was too high to ford the stream, and it would have been very difficult to make a battery bear upon them. A flank movement was all that could have routed them. As we were unable to affect a crossing before dark, we fell back three miles, and went into camp for the night.

Thursday morning we arose, fresh and jubilant, and again started our march under the white flag. We crossed Coldwater by means of a pontoon, which lay on the opposite side, and which we obtained by climbing across on the limbs of trees. By advancing a couple of miles we hove in sight of the rebel pickets, who vanished like a will o' the wisp, as we moved toward them. At Coldwater station, three miles out, quite a number of sandy headed wild men of the woods were seen "legging it" about town, some on foot and some on horses. As we passed farmhouses women grabbed their babies and ran, and the men stood still and quaked at their knees. Thus we went on double quick until we reached Bucksnot Common, a small town twelve miles from the ford. Here, few knew what a white flag meant, this being the first they had ever seen, and sandy men on sandy horses, one man named Sandbank, went scalahooting out of town, like the same number of frightened cattle. We soon pacified the fears of those who remained, and after learning what a white flag meant the rest returned. Most of them were Partizan Rangers, and they knew little of civilized modes of warfare. Two of the regular Confederate soldiers were there, and gave an explanation of the strange conduct of the "qualmy Rangers;" as they called them. We learned that General Smith of LaGrange, had been through there the day before with about 1,000 men, to the terror of all things human. His were the first Feds they had ever seen. Smith's design had been to flank the enemy at the ford, while we fought him in front, but he arrived too late.

After refreshing ourselves and making due inquiry as to the whereabouts of General Chalmers we started again on our errand, with two of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ark. Cav. as guides, one of whom I saw last fall near Corinth, wounded. He seemed to be a pretty fine young man and a true rebel soldier. He had once been tempted to take the oath, having passed through our lines with one in his pocket in another man's name, while on a visit to his friends, and which he intended to use, if necessary, never to violate. He almost regretted he had not done it, and he knew hundreds of their soldiers who were of the same mind. He considered the war as a political misunderstanding on the part of the North and the South, and thousands like him had been fooled into the rebel service, and could only see their error when too late to mend.

We were soon overtaken by a squadron of rebel cavalry, numbering about two hundred, who had heard of our appearance in Bucksnot, and had come to fight us. But seeing our flag they advanced upon more amiable terms, yet manifested great distrust as to our mission. I think their numbers was the cause of their great bravery. We were their enemies, yet friends, and the line of trampling cavalry soon became quite spotted with blue and grey, and for three or four miles we had a jolly time, trading horses, jack knives, spurs and other trinkets, and exchanging "greybacks" for "greenbacks." I think one of our boys rather gulled a

rebel Lieutenant on the horse trade, and others ditto on counterfeit Confederate money. Capt. Mitchel, then commander of the squadron, offered to pick an equal number of his best men, and give us a fight. We would have accepted his offer and spoiled his courage, had our mission been different; but under the circumstances it would not have done, only in self defense. I think a saber charge would have scattered his motley crew to the four winds. Motley, I say, still the best clothed, best fed, and the best looking rebel soldiers I have ever seen, and they were pretty well armed.

At one time a courier rode up with word that the Feds were approaching in force. Capt. Mitchell halted the column, and tried to persuade our Co. to remain in the rear, so that he could advance and fight them if there were any. The officers concluded it would not do to interrupt the progress of our flag, so we again went on; they in the meantime, thinking we were leading them to ambush. Yet, with all this, we had an agreeable visit; and I believe we gave them to understand that we were not very tired of the service, nor would we be until the rebellion was entirely subdued. This talk made them look sober as they acknowledged themselves heartily sick of it, and greatly discouraged; and some talked very bitterly against those who got them into it. One asked me if we were allowed to walk on side walks in northern towns. He said in some southern towns the people had voted strongly against it, and would have carried their point, had not the soldiers threatened to burn the towns. He said this was one only of the innumerable aggravations they were subject to, which made them feel discouraged, and almost forced them to desertion.

Finally we delivered our message and left them. We bade them a friendly good bye, and returned to Hernando that evening, making a days travel of over forty miles. On leaving one of them told me if he ever got into battle where Illinois troops were engaged, he would never shoot one if he could help it. They seem to entertain great respect for Indiana and Illinois soldiers. On returning I noticed that they had pickets out to see that we took the direct road to the river, showing that they were somewhat jealous in regard to our mission.

We stayed at Hernando over night, and supped and breakfasted at their hotels, at Uncle Sam's expense.

Saturday morning we returned to Memphis, well satisfied that our journey into Dixie had been one that fully paid for the trouble. We all had been burdened with the curiosity of seeing the enemy as he appeared at home, and we were fully relieved of that burden. We passed through a fine farming country, and thought most of the land is lying idle, yet we saw many extensive fields of small grain, and many large fields of corn, just nicely sprouted above ground. We passed one peach orchard containing at least two hundred acres.

Now I will close lest I tire your patience. Co. A. is camped east of town.

Somebody has tried to incorporate us into the 15<sup>th</sup>, but that name will never be recognized by us. Our company is small now, but all the best material is still remaining. Our officers are generally well liked. Capt. Willis has exceeded our expectations, and is rapidly gaining the confidence of the company. 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Ferre and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Collins both make excellent officers, by twenty one month's trial.

Yours truly, J. W. E.

AB, 5-7-1863

### TO THE LADIES SOLDIER'S AID SOCIETY OF AURORA

In accordance with the list of appointments made by you, I visited every town in the county of Kane, and the town of Barrington in Cook county, and the town of Pierce in De Kalb county.

As a general thing I found that the people with a singular unanimity are taking a lively interest in the workings of the commission. In most of the towns I found societies in tolerable working order. We organized societies in the following places:

Rutland, North Plato, Plato Centre, and Campton. In Burlington arrangements were made for organizing a society at once. In all of which places the people seemed to take a lively interest, and work in earnest; and I think we may confidentially expect to hear cheering reports from them hereafter.

Among the farming community I find a general disposition to contribute largely of vegetables, butter, eggs etc., and car loads may be expected from several places. I cannot now give the exact amount, as they are bringing in daily to the various places of deposite throughout the country.

I spoke in each place I visited and took up a collection, leaving the money in most instances in the hands of the society where the collection was taken up. In the following towns the collections were sent to your society by me. Plato Centre, Burlington, Campton, (\$100), Lodi, Pierce. In all these towns where the *very* small collections were taken, the matter was unpleasant, with the exception of Kaneville, and with regards to that place I shall have something to say in future. Statistics of what has been done heretofore, where handed me by some societies, which accompany my report. The amount of the several collections will be found in a schedule hereto annexed, to which you will refer for their various items. All of which is respectfully submitted.

April, 29<sup>th</sup>, 1863

R. H. Winslow.

SCHEDULE

March 31 <sup>st</sup> , Batavia took up contribution of	\$13.82
April 1 <sup>st</sup> . Geneva	\$7.00
April 2 <sup>nd</sup> , St. Charles, no collection taken but brought in afterwards 30 bbls. of vegetables.	
“ 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Elgin took up collection of	\$15.25
“ 4 <sup>th</sup> , Dundee “	\$17.47
“ 6 <sup>th</sup> , Rutland, no collection; proper notice not having been given.	
“ 7 <sup>th</sup> , Hampshire	\$10.65
“ 8 <sup>th</sup> , Burlington	\$9.00
“ 9 <sup>th</sup> , North Plato	\$2.41
“ 10 <sup>th</sup> , Plato Centre	\$7.65
“ 11 <sup>th</sup> , Campton	\$5.10
“ 12 <sup>th</sup> , Barrington, Cook Co.	\$31.00
“ 15 <sup>th</sup> , Kaneville,	\$0.00
“ 15 <sup>th</sup> , Big Rock	\$3.35
“ 16 <sup>th</sup> , Blackberry Sta.	\$18.76
“ 17 <sup>th</sup> , Blackberry	\$10.65
“ 18 <sup>th</sup> , Sugar Grove,	\$3.30
“ 18 <sup>th</sup> , Pierce, De Kalb Co.	\$3.65
“ 18 <sup>th</sup> , Lodi	\$7.75
Big Rock has heretofore raised	\$121.31
Blackberry “	\$46.90
Hampshire “	\$72.58

And three boxes of hospital supplies.

*EG, 5-13-1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

36<sup>th</sup> Ill., 1<sup>st</sup> Brig., 3d Div., 20<sup>th</sup> A. C.  
Murfreesboro, Tenn., May 3, 1863.

MR. EDITOR,

Sir: --

Enclosed you will find a letter which I received a few days ago, and which I thought well worth publishing, for you will perceive it as a genuine “copperhead

species.”

Another reason is the fact that the writer, (who holds his name) accuses me of using language, in a letter published in your columns, which I *did not*, as everyone will remember who reads the article, for I did not class the democrats with the copperheads, well knowing that we have some just as good democrats in the army as can be found. And again, *I do not consider every democrat a copperhead, although I do every copperhead a democrat*. Yet the writer seems to think I class them together. Now there is where he is mistaken, for some of the bravest men we have in this American Army are democrats, and far be it for me to say anything against them. I think if *my friend* reads the article again, carefully, he will find he has wasted his charge for naught. But the letter will show for itself, so I will desist from writing any more.

Yours in haste,

J. C. Denison.

Camp before Vitsburg, April the 15, 1863.

Mr. Davicean, your letter to the Elgin Gazette I just received by a private letter from Elgin which I am very sorry to say you have fallen into error when you say that you wish that all the democrats ought to be conscripted and put into the front of the battle. Sir I suppose you would if you could stay to the rear do you mean to assert that the democrat has not held out for the rights of the country as well as the republican or abolitionist. I say they have fought almost the first battles that was fought and never was knowing to run or flinch from fight. I want you to point out one company or regiment that has no democrats in them. How many has left Elgin. I say there fully has been half of the Elgin boys sound democrats and I am one from Elgin that always has one and always will. Sir, your first Captain was another and fought the first battle against Joe King and made the unprincipled amblishin King surrendered his arms to Joslyn of Elgin a true democrat. The next battle was the battle of Bull's Run, who fought there and stood, our democrats. Corkran Cornaul of the 69<sup>th</sup> N. Y. together with the Zouaves, who run. Why the Ohio abolitionists the next fight was Lexington made by all democrats Cornaul Mulegans Regiment I believe when you assert and alaye all to the copperheads you are very wrong. But I am of the opinion that there is a little prejudice mixed with it. I cannot see many of your party at all. I suppose they are all discharged or dead. I know they're dying fast enough here. I rather think the copperheads will have to take compassion on ye and come and fight for to see and let you all home. For ye all would be killed I would not fret about others so much as you do. I think the government will take care of its own business and I think the copperheads will to. I think that the copper heads will not be fought enough to leave their homes until they see the thing on equality and not have any favor shown to any party. If I

got my choice I should take all the negrow worshippers and let them fight for their black brethren. I hope the day will never come for me to see the Baboon Negrow sent to a free state as they undertook to bring them to Ill. and our own city of Elgin. Thomas is a great head of the church and to be guilty of stealing property belonging to any man, and what is still worse, to break the Constitution of the free State of Ill it is raskely. I would like to fight for the constitution as it is and the union as it was, but I can never fight for a black baboon, that is certain truth. I cannot do it with an honest heart. Nothing new here yet, only the troops move.

Sir your truly,

T. M. ASOLDGER

Vanburen Hospital, Miligans Bend, La.

*WS, 5-13-1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Camp Schaefer, Tenn., April 27, 1863.

EDITOR SENTINEL:

Last week Major General Reynolds commanded a successful expedition which left Murfreesboro and proceeded in the direction of McMinnville. Col. Wilder's mounted brigade surprised the post at one o'clock Tuesday morning, entering the town and destroying the depot buildings, bridges, provisions, 200 bales of cotton, cotton factories, mills, camp equipage &c. The cavalry made several dashes upon the R. R., destroyed two trains of cars, and captured 150 prisoners. Rebel cavalry continue to prowl around our picket lines, occasionally firing upon our videtts, seldom doing any damage. Brig. Gen. Lytle, took command of our brigade the 20<sup>th</sup>, so we have once more a live general. Sergt. N. B. Sherwood, who was wounded in the battle of Stone River, and since confined in the hospital at Nashville has joined us again, having entirely recovered from his injuries. Weather warm, with an occasional shower.

Sentinels Thankfully Received.

Q. R.

*WS, 5-20-1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Camp Schaefer, Tenn., May 6, 1863

EDITOR SENTINEL:

So little transpires in this direction of late, that it is hard finding anything about which to write. Since the McMinnville affair, nothing decisive or in way exciting has taken place.

We seldom stand picket without being fired upon, sometime during the night, but it seems to affect their nervous system to come so close to us, for their shots fail to harm anyone.

This morning, we came out towards Salem, and relieved the pickets; and as we brought five day's rations, you can guess how long we are to stay.

We have turned over our large tents and drawn shelter tents, which we have fixed up so that they are very comfortable. Nearly the whole army are now living in these dog tents. It may be that the Army of the Cumberland has gone into summer quarters, but this looks a little suspicious.

Capt. Ohlsen, Co. F, has been promoted to the rank of Lieut. Colonel of the Regiment.

Yesterday, Capt. Camel, Co. B, and Lieutenant Wakeman, Co. A, returned to the regiment, from a trip in Dixie. They were both wounded and taken prisoner at the battle of Stone River.

During Lieut. Wakeman's absence he has been promoted to the Captaincy of Co. H. He took command of the Company this morning.

If it was a clear day, we would almost look for a frost tonight; but the clouds carelessly empty their contents upon us, every little while, causing us to draw our overcoats closer about us, and we actually shiver over a rail fire.

The regiment was mustered for pay again, last Thursday.

Boys in usual health.

Respectfully, yours,

Q. R.

*GCH, 5-20-1863*

PROVOST MARSHAL. – Abel Longworth, late Captain of Company G, 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, has been appointed by the President, to the position of Provost

Marshal, for this Congressional District, composed of the counties of Will, DuPage, Kankakee, LaSalle, and Grundy. He has been required to make his headquarters at Joliet. We understand he has forwarded his acceptance to the Department, at Washington, and will enter upon the discharge of his duties of the office as soon as his commission is received. The appointment is one eminently fit to be made, and Captain Longworth will discharge the duties of the position in a faithful and energetic manner. The following complimentary notice of Captain Longworth we take from the Chicago Tribune of Saturday:

“It will be seen in the published list elsewhere that Captain Abel Longworth, of Morris, Grundy County, has been appointed Provost Marshal of the Sixth Congressional District. Till recently when forced from physical disability to resign, was Captain on the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteers, Colonel Greusel, and did his full share to make for that splendid regiment the high reputation it so justly deserves. So long as Pea Ridge, Perryville and Stone River live in the history of the Republic, so long will the noble deeds of this gallant 36<sup>th</sup> be known and honored. The country will be most fortunate if all the appointments under the conscription met are so worthily bestowed. The act will be most faithfully executed in the sixth District.”

*EG, 6-10-1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

Camp 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division  
20<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Murfreesboro,  
May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1863.

EDITOR GAZETTE:

Again after a long silence, “your correspondent,” as you have been pleased to honor me, attempts to address you, but it is not “sickness” that has caused the silence, as many of your readers might suppose from a paragraph which appeared in the Gazette of the 20<sup>th</sup> instant, for I assure you I am enjoying very good health, but the want of any stirring news to communicate, for as you doubtless are aware, the “Army of the Cumberland” has been acting to a certain degree, “*a la*”

Potomac, and with the exception of a successful cavalry raid now and then, and skirmishing on picket, "all is quiet," that is to the outward world, but could you suddenly be dropped down in Murfreesboro, you would think by the bustle and excitement that met you on every side, that Rosecrans and his army were still alive, and I think should the rebs undertake the job of retaking this place, they too would think we had not been idle all this time, for certainly this is one of the strongest fortified places held by the Union army, and it is thought by good judges, that ten thousand men can hold it against one hundred thousand, so it is evident "Rosey" calculates to hold all he's got, and get all he can. I should not be surprised if he was soon contending with Bragg for some of his territory, and when he starts *he will* accomplish his object, for no one who observed his tenacity in the late battle, can for a moment think *he* will fail, or knows the meaning of the word.

Col. Miller arrived in camp last Saturday, and met with a hearty and enthusiastic reception, participated in by every one in the Regiment. It makes no difference with him if the Eagle does perch upon his shoulder, the private meets with just as hearty a shake of the hand as the officer. Captain Hobbs accompanied him, and a few days previous to their arrival, Captains Waterman and Campbell arrived, and Captain Olson received his commission as Lieut. Col. Now for the first for a long while, we have all of our "Field and Staff" officers present, and Captains for every company but one, and once more the "old 36<sup>th</sup>" is able to present to spectators a dress parade not to be surpassed by any regiment of the same age in service.

Colonel Miller had command of the regiment on "Dress Parade" for the first time since his arrival, night before last, and the splendid brass band of the 24<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin, kindly volunteered to play upon the occasion. The parade was witnessed by nearly three hundred persons from other regiments, and they stared with wonder and surprise at the way the boys handled their guns, every motion was performed as though there was only one gun, and I heard many of them say, "That can't be beat," and so we think.

Major Sherman, who by the way, is one of the best drilled and appearing officers in the Division, has organized a class in "French Bayonet Drill," composed of the non-commissioned officers, and such of the officers as wish to learn it, and under his skillful management, we expect to make a crack appearance.

Everything is serene in the regiment now, and the best of feeling prevails, indeed, since Col. Greusel went away, all has been harmonious, and we hope it will continue thus, for certainly there has been enough wire pulling heretofore, to cause good feeling amongst us now.

We received orders about 2 o'clock this morning to be ready to move at a moments notice, with five days cooked rations in our haversacks, so this portends something. I understand that Thomas' corps went out last night, and it, may be

that you will hear stirring news from this quarter before long.

The good news from Grant causes us to rejoice, and yet it is almost with fear that we do so, for we got badly sold on news of the fall of the rebel Capital, and Hooker's unbounded success, but this one fact gives us hope, Grant's army is composed of Western boys and veteran soldiers, and it is very seldom *they* fail, indeed, some of the prisoners we took in the late battle, say that "they can whip two to one of the Eastern troops, but consider one of the Western boys nearly a match." Should Grant meet with success the back bone of the Southern Confederacy is broken, and the "Great Father of Waters" will be open to our commerce. Things brighten, and we believe the day is not far distant, when the glorious morning of peace shall dawn, and the noble "flag of the free" float over every city and town, from the Great Lakes to the Gulf. God hasten the day.

The health of our regiment still remains good, and we have been blessed in securing the services of good, and efficient surgeons to fill the places of Drs. Young and Pierce. We have not a man in hospital, and only eight reported at sick call this morning. But the best illustration I can give you of the "stock" composing this regiment, is to state the particulars of a meeting called together the other evening at the request of the Chaplain, to form some plan of raising a library. He addressed us a few moments, and then gave to each company commander a subscription paper to circulate through the companies, to see what could be raised, and between the hours of 7 and 9, nearly three hundred dollars was subscribed, which has been somewhat increased since, and the class of books to be purchased are of the best tone and quality. Does not this speak well for the "rough, uncultivated old 36<sup>th</sup>?"

But I am already taking up too much of your space, and will hasten to a close. Co. "B" cavalry, were this morning transferred from acting escort to Jeff C. Davis to Maj. Gen. Crittenden, but they still claim to belong to the 36<sup>th</sup>. I believe they are all enjoying good health. I hope you will meet with unbounded success in the printing and circulating of the next volume of your valuable paper, and add largely to your list of subscribers. Hoping you will not forget to forward us copies once in a while,

I remain,

Yours in haste, J. C. D.

*WS, 6-10-1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Camp Schaefer, Tenn., May 25, 1863.

EDITOR SENTINEL:

There is considerable rejoicing in camp over the arrival and departure of the notorious Ohio Copperhead, Vallandigham. He reached Murfreesboro, from Nashville, at 9 o'clock last night, and soon after midnight he started, under an escort, for the rebel lines. Thank God, the North West has finally got rid of the meanest traitor living! All honor to General Burnside!

Our cavalry, under Stanley, last Thursday night charged into two rebel camps, about ten miles from here, capturing seventy-five prisoners and two hundred horses. We lost one Lieutenant, who was killed, and three men wounded. The rebels had eight killed. The camp equipage, saddles, and other articles that could not be carried off, were burned.

Col. Miller arrived and joined the regiment on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. He was enthusiastically received by the boys, who gave him three hearty cheers and a tiger.

Our duties remain about the same, and the monotony of camp life, together with the increasing hot weather, is becoming tiresome in the extreme. We have flattering reports from Grant's army to-day, and we trust they may be confirmed tomorrow.

All of Co. H are in good health and spirits.

Yours Truly, Q. R.

*AB, 6-18-1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

We make the following extracts from a letter in the last *Elgin Gazette* written by one of the members of the old 36<sup>th</sup>:

Col. Miller arrived in camp last Saturday and met with a hearty and enthusiastic reception, participated in by every one in the regiment. It makes no difference to him if the eagle does perch upon his shoulder, the private meets with just as hearty a shake of the hand, as the officer. Captain Hobbs accompanied him, and a few days previous to their arrival, Captains Waterman and Campbell arrived, and Captain Olson received his commission as Lieut Col. Now for the first time in a long while, we have all of our field and staff officers present, and Captains for every company but one, and once more the old 36<sup>th</sup> is able to present to spectators a dress parade not to be surpassed by any regiment of the same age in the service.

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*EG, 6-24-1863*

#### COMPANY B CAVALRY.

Murfreesboro, June 21, '63.

MR. EDITOR:

Permit me, in behalf of the members of Co. B cavalry, 36<sup>th</sup>, through your columns, to return their most earnest thanks to their many friends in your vicinity who so bountifully contributed to their material requirements in this climate and season, and not included in a soldier's ration, namely; 4 bbls. Eggs, 1 bl. Butter, 1 ½ bbls. Potatoes, and box sundries, which are received yesterday in good condition. To have been present and witnessed in each man's countenance the betrayal of his heartfelt thankfulness, and listened to the many ejaculations of kind remembrance of present, as well as past favors, would have been ample reward for

your transmission, and inspired you to renew the same the next favorable opportunity.

We hope soon, by the final triumph of our arms, to return among our friends and enjoy the many blessings and privileges in common with them; until that time you are held in most grateful remembrance by the members of Co. B.

S. B. Sherer, Capt.

*AB, 6-25-1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>, CO. A., CAVALRY.

Battlefield of Vicksburg,  
June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1863

Editors Beacon, -- Since I last wrote the advance of our army has been slow but effective. Our line of battle around the beleaguered city is perfect, and our troops are in good health and excellent spirits. The enemy is entirely hemmed in, and we are having things just about our own way. Our line of pickets and theirs, have been until lately considerably in each others way; but now they do not fire on each other as much as they did. I believe it would be for the good of both armies if the picket fighting was entirely done away with. It makes now and then a vacancy which can easily be filled, and does not in the least tend to intimidate the other side. Pickets on either side can be easily driven back upon the reserves which alone are effective; and the only use they are to our army is to give the alarm of the enemy's approaches; and there is no use of their ever firing a gun, unless menaced by the enemy, or when men approaching, or passing, will not halt when challenged. Yesterday our pickets and theirs had a great deal of sport talking across the lines. The talk was most of a black-guard character; one of our boys asked the rebs who their commanding general was, and they answered general starvation, and they calculated to keep him in office until they could get reinforcements.

From the 20<sup>th</sup> ult. our commissary supplies have been abundant, and the facilities for getting them are good as could be wished for. We have two good routes by which to reach our transports; one by way of Chickasaw Bluffs, fifteen miles up the Yazoo river, and ten miles from Vicksburg, and the other by way of Warrenton, seven miles below, and across Young's Point, ten miles. We now draw just as good rations as we drew in Memphis, have plenty of beef and mutton, which we get from the country, and from the vast herds of cattle which have been turned out of the city since the siege commenced. I presume over a thousand head

of horses, mules, and cattle, have been driven out within the last fifteen days. This was quite a God-send to us, as many of our teams needed recruiting, and the beef would fatten our men for the work we have before us. But it was a sore necessity on the part of the rebels, and a providential frown upon the inglorious rebellion.

Our mail comes to us regular, and in large quantities; and we have good opportunities of answering our letters, except an occasional interruption from stray bullets, or the bursting of some of those "infernal machines" thrown by "Whistling Jack" a long black looking fellow, lying just a little too much in juxtaposition of our headquarters; but when assailed, we have managed to escape by now and then changing our position among the heavy timbered bluffs, which this country is so notable for. But I think this ugly fellow is about dried up, either from the want of wind and water, or from too good a supply of both, as we have been giving them all sorts, from both front and rear. This gun is said to be a Columbiad of the finest make, of ten inch caliber, and manned by the most expert marksmen, and placed in a fort at the enemy's extreme right. It is Gen. Lanman's batteries and sharpshooters, (Gen. Hurlbut's old Division,) that has brought this, and all the rest of the enemy's big guns in this quarter, to silence, and now we make about all the noise that is made from this point of our line, though yesterday the enemy made out to throw a couple of shells into our headquarters, when we were advancing our lines, which we did about four hundred yards. We shall soon have parapets erected close upon the enemy's works, and prevent further demonstration which he may attempt to make on our left.

No army could be more perfectly in working order than this around Vicksburg. With three of the best Corps Commanders in the service, Sherman, McPherson and McClernand, and a chief as undaunted as a Bonaparte, whatever unsuspected change may take place ere this battle is ended, under every contingency, we are sure of certain victory.

The corps-de-arme under Maj. Gen. McPherson occupies the centre, that under Maj. Gen. Sherman, the right, with Maj. Gen. McClernand on the left, and Gen. Lanman's division still on the left of McClernand. This constitutes the military force in the rear of Vicksburg. Besides the above named we have two other Maj. Generals Logan in McPherson's corps, and Steele in Sherman's. And we have a powerful detachment under Gen. Osterhause, stationed at Haine's Bluff; besides all our cavalry in this section combined into one squadron, under Col. Johnson, Chief of Cavalry on Gen. Grant's staff and are scouring the country between here and Big Black Bridge, in search of whatever may be found of a belligerent character, and to watch the movements of Jo. Johnson. There is no doubt but that Johnson has something of a force in our rear, round about Jackson or Yazoo City which he is trying to combine against us, and rescue poor Pemberton from this unfortunate dilemma. But I think his efforts will prove futile. As yet all

the material aid he has sent Pemberton has been with an ill wind. The other day he sent him 200,000 gun caps, with his compliments and a message in "characters" which he did not fully make out addressed to "Lieut. Gen. Pemberton." The gun caps, about five bushels in quantity, and this message, were carried by nine wounded men, with a boy as guide, who we turned out of our lines only a week before. This boy will pay too dear for his whistle.

Deserters from Vicksburg have been coming into camp every day. Soldiers and citizens are no longer allowed to pass out through our lines; but negroes, we are under obligation to let out, as they would be suffered to starve if forced to remain, in case those whom we have cooped up there, should run short of rations. Every manner of story is told by these deserters, but we do not put much confidence in them. The account confirmed by them, is generally that they are on very short allowances, four ounces of beef, and two ounces of meal made of peas and corn, ground together constituting a ration. Water even is said to be scarce and poor at that; our gunboats having destroyed their facilities for getting it from the river. They have no coffee except that made from corn bran and that is said to be very scarce. Their soldiers are said to be in very low spirits and from the beginning wanted to surrender the place; but the officers have sworn to hold out to the last man, and everything now has the appearance that they will keep their oath. It is generally thought that Pemberton would have given up before this, but for the chagrin he would feel for not doing all in his power to do. They have all this time been led on by the delusion that they will get assistance from the rear. Johnston would no doubt help them if he could; but his prospects look rather dim.

Ere their army will surrender to us voluntarily, we expect they will make an effort to break away. Their numbers we do not know, but it is generally thought that they have 25,000 to 30,000. The women and children who were not taken to Yazoo City before the battle commenced, have since been taken across to Young's Point, by Gen. Grant's permit. These are under guard at our landing, and afford our transports a good protection.

Our gunboats have done very good work on the river, having silenced all the water batteries, and done considerable execution in the rebel works around the city. Com. David Porter bids fair to win an honorable distinction in this grand battle.

One of the best incidents of this battle took place a few days ago. One of their deserters craved the permission to take the oath, and go home, which was in Rochester, N.Y. It not being granted, he asked leave to fire three shots from one of our guns. Leave was granted him, and the effect was, he blew up a large powder magazine in the rebel works. His own comrades saw him and his papers were given him on the spot. There is no doubt that thousands cooped up in this place care little which way the scale turns, and many would rather have them turned in our favor.

I have already spun out too long, and with a few words of tidings from our company. I will close. On our way down, three miles above Greenville the rebels shelled our boats. We gave them a few broadsides from one of our gunboats, which was with us as an escort, routed the rebels, killing a horse. We then landed a regiment of infantry and company A., and followed their retreat, burning everything that could be made of value to them, as we went. We at last overtook their rear guard, sixty in number; there was but fourteen of us with Capt. Willis and Lieut. Ferre. We fought them with pistols and carbines for some minutes, when we were ordered to charge. This was a signal success and resulted in the complete rout of them all. We kept up the charge for half a mile, and as we were just about to make it tell, we run against their whole force, being a battery and three hundred cavalry. They commenced throwing shells and we slowly turned back until the infantry came up, then we resumed the chase and followed them, some five miles, burned the buildings on several fine plantations, together with 10,000 bushels of corn; we then turned and went to Greenville, and laid that town in ashes. This was a fine town about the size of Geneva or St. Charles, and had a fine court house and jail. The rebels killed one of our men belonging to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Iowa, and wounded twelve. One million of dollars would not more than cover their loss; and I believe they have not meddled with our transports since.

While we have been here our company have engaged in scouting, taking the advance of Johnson's cavalry. It has been in several artillery skirmishes out near Big Black, and has merited much praise for gallantry and courage. Co. F. of the 25<sup>th</sup> Ill. Cavalry, which is in a battalion with us, is a mere cipher, and a nuisance to the service. But of all things contemptible and presumptuous, the Maj. over us bears the palm; he is the by word and hissing of all who know him, and the sooner the government is rid of such dough faced officials, the better for the service. He acted the coward at Coldwater, and has played the troon whenever he has been with us; all the reputation he has or ever will have, he has gained by sailing under false colors, the hard earned banner of the 36<sup>th</sup> cavalry.

Hoping that I may be able to date my next letter in the city of Vicksburg, with more important news to relate, I will draw this to a close.

By the way, I visited the 124<sup>th</sup> the other day in their entrenchments. The boys were all enjoying the fight first rate, having good quarters and out of danger, though within a few rods of the rebel works. They have fine entrenchments thrown up, with timbers full of port holes, strung along the top. Here this regiment is doing good execution; only four of the Aurora boys are killed, as yet. The Lieut. Col. is in command instead of the Major. I think this regiment is the flower of Logan's division.

Yesterday and today the fighting along the line has been unusually heavy, but the heaviest firing was done by our men. The battle is progressing finely and I

hope it will end soon, as Gen. Grant's clothing are getting rather seedy, and it requires some discrimination to distinguish him from the waggon master, as his personelle is nothing to recommend him to superiority. And now, lest I make "too much of one thing good for nothing," I will close this already too long extended letter.

Very Respectfully Yours, &c.,  
J. W. E.

*AB, 7-16-1863*

**KEEP THE SOLDIERS' LETTERS.**

Mother, father, brother, sister, sweetheart keep that bundle sacredly ! Each word will be historic, each line invaluable. When peace has restored the ravages of war and our nation's grandeur has made this struggle the more memorable of those great conflicts by which ideas are rooted into society, these pen pictures of the humblest events, the merest routine of the life led in winning national unity and freedom, will be priceless. Not for the historian's sake who receive them. The next skirmish may stop our pulses forever, and our letters full of love for you, will be our only legacy besides that of having died in a noble cause. And should we survive the war, with health or limb uninjured, or bowed with sickness or crippled with wounds, these letters will be dear mementoes to us of dangers past, of trials borne, of privation suffered, of comrades beloved. Keep our letters then, and write to us all the home news and "gossip." Bid us God speed, speak kindly, loving courageous words to us. If you can't be Spartans – and we don't want you to be – be lovers, countrymen and friends. So shall our feet fall lightly and our sabers heavier.

**Middle Tennessee or Tullahoma Campaign, June 24 thru July 7, 1863**

*WS, 7-22-1863*

## FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

In Camp by The Roadside.  
June 30<sup>th</sup>. 1863

### EDITOR SENTINEL:

Owing to the scarcity of material from which to manufacture a letter of any interest from the army, while laying in camp so long in one place, I have delayed writing for sometime, but as "the scene changes," I will occasionally inform you of our whereabouts. We left "Camp Schaefer," or rather, the picket post – our brigade had been on picket four days – the 24<sup>th</sup>, and proceeded in the direction of Shelbyville.

About 9 o'clock in the morning, it commenced raining, and since then, it has rained every day and night more or less, making our progress slow, and by no means pleasant. Such a rainy week as the past has been, is seldom known at this season of the year.

Lively skirmishing has been kept up almost constantly, but the rebels have manifested no desire to fight, except at "Liberty's Gap," where General Johnson's division had a sharp little battle on the 25<sup>th</sup>, getting possession of it, but losing 200 men in killed and wounded.

Liberty's Gap is 14 miles from Murfreesboro, between the Manchester and Shelbyville Pikes. The wounded were taken back to Murfreesboro. Our division crossed over to the Manchester Pike, arrived at Manchester Sunday, and bivouacked in the mud hole just west of the town for the night.

Yesterday we advanced six miles, through a perfect sheet of falling water.

I understand it is only seven miles further to Tullahoma, where it is expected Bragg will give us battle. We are expected to move soon, and I must close.

The boys are all well, except John Fitch, Charles Irish and John P. Floyd, who, being unable to march, we left at Murfreesboro.

In Haste, Q. R.

*AB, 7-23-1863*

### TO THOSE INCLINED TO ENLIST

By the following general order from the War Department, it will be seen that the inducements offered to those inclined to enter the military service in the regular

army are very flattering:

War Department,  
Adjutant General's Office,  
Washington, June 25, 1863.

General Order No. 196.

*Ordered,* That all the men enlisting in the regular army for five years, within ninety days from this date, shall receive premium advance pay, and bounty, of \$400 as follows, viz:

Premium paid on enlistment	\$2.00
Advance pay, first payment after first muster	\$13.00
Advance Bounty, paid after being accepted	\$25.00
Total	\$40.00
Bounty to be paid at the 2 <sup>nd</sup> regular pay day	
After enlistment	\$50.00
Bounty to be paid after 8 months service	\$50.00
Bounty to be paid after 12 months service	\$50.00
Bounty to be paid after 2 years service	\$50.00
Bounty to be paid after 3 years service	\$50.00
Bounty to be paid after 4 years service	\$50.00
Bounty to be paid at the expiration of service	\$75.00

*And be it further ordered,* That the bounty of \$400 aforesaid shall be allowed and paid in the manner hereinbefore provided, to all those men now in the regular army whose term expires within one year from this date, and who shall reenlist at any time within two months before their present term of service expires.

By order of the Secretary of War;

E. D. Townsend,  
Assistant Adjutant General.

AB, 7-23-1863

LETTER FROM CO. A. CAVALRY, 36<sup>th</sup> REG'T.

Vicksburg, Miss., July 8, 1863

Ed. Beacon; -- Anxious eyes can once more beam with joy, and throbbing and spell bound hearts once more lay down their burdens of suffering; the Sevastopol of America has fallen ! The surrender of Vicksburg on our nation's birthday is looked upon here as a *Providential smile upon the army of freedom, and a frown upon the hosts of the oppressor !*

The city of Vicksburg was surrendered into our hands on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, at 9 o'clock AM. A flag of truce was sent out on the evening of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, to surrender the place upon certain conditions; but this message was answered by the terrific thunder of our artillery all around our lines. At 2 o'clock the next morning the white flag appeared again, as I learn, upon terms wholly unconditional. What was agreed to in the capitulation is a matter that has, in my mind, nothing whatever to do with the unconditional surrender of the place, all appearances to the contrary, notwithstanding. The capitulation is not yet published, but in substance is this; that our authorities will respect private property, parole all the prisoners, and allow them thirty wagons and eight days rations to take with them when they leave; and according to common usage, allow all commissioned officers to wear their side arms. This I believe to have been a voluntary proposition on the part of Gen. Grant. At any rate we gained absolute possession of the city, and all the contents, and this on a day above all others despised and hated by the enemy.

Forty eight long days had our men and theirs suffered under the parching heat of the summer's sun, in this warm climate, made doubly hot by laying in the entrenchments and three times deluged with rain. Yet, on the part of the enemy there was no change of men on the post of duty. And these hot days and sleepless nights were made eventful by the death of many a brave man, whose requiem will be sung by sorrowing hearts in homes made desolate. Yet, through death, and sickness and untold suffering prevailed, during this great struggle, still the energies of neither army were known to flag, nor show the slightest indication of a lack of courage. The world's records point to no spot on earth where more determined foes have faced each other on the field of battle. Never has life been sacrificed more willingly upon a country's alters; never has any nation's foes struggled with greater determination; and today, and for many days to come, they would have continued this struggle, had not starvation actually forced them to surrender. There is no doubt that at last we would have whipped the enemy by fight; but as it is, good, bad or indifferent, hunger, not Grant, was victor on this battlefield. Or, if two should claim the victory, let Gen. Grant and general starvation have the honors

equally distributed between them.

Gen. Logan's division was first to enter the enemy's works, and Gen. Logan is now made post commander.

Sixteen rebel Generals were here in command; one Lieut. Gen. J. C. Pemberton, commander of the rebel forces; four Major Generals, Smith, Baldwin, Bowen and Stephens; and eleven Brigadier Generals. Nearly all of the commissioned officers were neatly dressed in the confederate uniform, and everything in the city had a bearing of the most complete military discipline. Their officers all exhibit the rigid discipline of regular army officers, which I am ashamed to say I cannot give our officers the credit of. The Confederate uniform is made of beautiful grey cloth, with the exception of the trimming. (This information is given gratis). Their caps as worn generally, are made of the same cloth of their coats, and trimmed with tinsel braid. Their officers and soldiers have free range inside the entrenchments, which are kept garrisoned strong enough to prevent any from escaping; though I have no idea that many would have any notion of doing so, as they are generally willing to have a few months rest on parole.

The parolement of these prisoners has been going on since the surrender, but will take several days to complete it. A large portion refuse to accept a parole, and are in prison; they will either take the oath, or be sent north as prisoners to await their exchange in prison. The number that came forward and stacked their arms is estimated at sixteen thousand. Several thousand were still laying in their convalescent camps, and many as fit for service as those who came forward. At least twenty thousand could have been able to shoulder arms. From eight to ten thousand were in the hospitals, sick and wounded. Those under the heading of citizens, I think could not number over two thousand. Most of the women and children had been removed to Yazoo City the day before the siege commenced. Then, to make allowances for the killed in battle, we can infer that altogether we had between thirty and thirty five thousand inside the fences at Vicksburg. The number may reach as high as forty thousand, or more; our information is not reliable. A true estimate will be made in the official report. The number of their killed is not large, but their wounded I think will greatly outnumber ours.

Vicksburg is situated on a steep and rugged bluff, rising to over one hundred and fifty feet above the level of the river, and covering an area of about five square miles. The top of this bluff rises as we go back from the river, and is broken into innumerable gullies, and steep, high and barren clay hills. The houses of the city are generally of an inferior quality, and scattered promiscuously among the hills. There are a number of well built houses here, but as a general thing they are old and shabby. Scarcely a house in the city has escaped being raked by our shot and shell; some are badly torn to pieces. By the houses I should not judge it to have

had over six or eight thousand inhabitants. It certainly has been no larger place than Aurora; and, what is more, not half as pretty a place in its best days. But it is not the place, but the military importance of it, like Corinth and Chattanooga, that has made our victory here one of the greatest magnitude.

During the latter part of the siege the meat that was mostly eaten by the rebel army was mule beef. This they used in every form – boiled, fried, roasted, stewed and jerked, and they say it tasted sweet and good, and in fighting for their independence they would eat it every time, if necessary. They are very proud in talking about it, but whether they relished it or not, it done my appetite good to see with what avidity they devoured our pilot bread and bacon.

Since the surrender our men and theirs have mixed promiscuously on the battlefield; and many a manly eye has been moistened as they have met their old comrades, friends and relatives in arms against each other, and talked over the affairs of the cruel war, brother against brother. Vicksburg, I believe the turning point of the rebellion, and the scales will rise in our favor. It is in this place alone that our men and theirs are permitted to assemble in a large body, and have plenty of time to talk and reflect upon the true aspect of this war. It is here that the tree of constitutional government is planted, never to be rooted up. It is here that Gen. Grant should have a monument, with an equestrian statue, made of the fragments of shells and balls picked up upon this battlefield; and last, but not least, (and I wish this point to be noticed,) it is here that *America should have its capital!*

E.

WS, 7-29-1863

#### FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Cowan Station, Tenn.,  
July 9<sup>th</sup> 1863.

EDITOR SENTINEL:

Sheridan's Division entered Tullahoma with their trusty Enfield's at a "right shoulder shift," July 1<sup>st</sup>. The place is not as well fortified as I expected to find it, and the town itself amounts to nothing. The condition in which Bragg left things, indicates that "Rosey's strategy in the rear, caused him to retire at a tolerable quick pace for infantry, leaving behind several siege guns, ammunition and regimental camps, the tents standing in perfect order.

The morning of the 2d, we started at daylight on the Winchester road. We reached Elk River that night, and crossed it, not dry shod over a bridge, but it seemed to be a "military necessity" for us to pull off the woolen, and wade, which was done with less murmuring than real difficulty, the stream being deep and very

rapid.

Next day we passed through Winchester and reached this place, a flourishing little town, and I could not help noticing two large buildings erected for school purposes – a rare occurrence in Dixie. Also three churches. Cowan is merely an accommodation station, at the foot of Cumberland Mountains, containing half a dozen houses, a water tank and turn table. The rebels burned the tank, and fired a small bridge near here, which our cavalry arrived in time to save.

The Fourth passed unnoticed – so far as any demonstrations on our part was concerned – but we often thought of the assembled friends in Woodstock, and wondered if rain was being poured as freely on their heads as ours, shower following shower the entire day.

Yesterday morning at daylight, many were awakened by the sudden, thundering salute which battery after battery sent forth in honor of the capture of Vicksburg.

Flattering reports are among us from the army of the Potomac, but they generally need confirmation.

Deserters and stragglers are coming in constantly, and giving themselves up. They report Bragg south of the Tennessee River, having burned the bridge.

I think we are waiting here for supplies to come forward; Elk River having become so high teams cannot ford it. We have been living on half rations for a few days, but I understand rations are expected through tomorrow. We are feasting upon blackberries, they being very plentiful. The boys are well and all in the best of spirits. Rains every day.

Sentinels received as usual.

Truly Yours, Q. R.

### **Occupation of Middle Tennessee until August 15, 1863**

*EG, 8-5-1863*

ARMY CORRESPONDENCE

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILL.

Camp 36<sup>th</sup> Ills., 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade,  
20<sup>th</sup> A. C., Cowan Station,  
Tenn., July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1863

EDITOR GAZETTE:

Once more I have concluded to drop you a few broken sentences from this mountain surrounded little town, situated on the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad, near the State line of Alabama. As you are already aware of the advance and occupation of this place by our troops, I will in a rough way only describe some of the incidents of the march.

We left our old familiar camp on Stone River, at Murfreesboro, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June. The weather previous to that, for some time, had been delightful, but as usual as soon as an advance was ordered, it grew cloudy and ominous, and ere we had marched one hour it commenced to rain, and continued to do so for the next twelve days. Of course it was very uncomfortable and many wondered why it always rained when "Rosey" moved, for it was just another such a day as the one upon which we left our camp at Mill Creek; but, "He who doth all things well" knew what was best and if it was discouraging and disheartening to us, it proved a great blessing to the Army of the Potomac, who for once were not "wind bound" by it; Yet I believe they would have been had they been crossing the mountains that we were. The first day our progress was necessarily slow, on account of muddy roads and advantages the country afforded the enemy to secrete their skirmishers. As usual "little Sheridan" was in the advance, and the rebels were forced to fall back before the impetuous fire and watchful vigilance of our boys. It was very tiresome skirmishing, as the grass was wet, and it rained so it was difficult to keep the guns dry enough to send a compliment, in the shape of a leaden bullet, at a 'reb' when exposed to the view of our boys. But none were discouraged, and all were glad to be on the move again, and felt certain that should Bragg stand, a glorious victory would be ours.

The women and what few men were left, looked glum and scowled at us, as they did not like it much that their crops, which were now ripe and in many places already cut, were to fall into the hands of "Northern hordes," after they had worked so hard to raise them for "Southern chivalry," and if looks could have done it, the women would have demolished us all; but the negroes were ready to receive us with open hands, and many left with us. A great many of the people deserted their homes and left everything to flee with Bragg; but when a house is thus deserted it receives pretty rough usage, in many instances being totally destroyed.

As we neared the mountains the rebels made a stronger resistance, as the gaps through which we were to pass afforded them excellent facilities for planting batteries, and a very few men could hold out against three times their number.

A halt was made near an old church, while the force went forward to

reconnoiter. The church, affording shelter from the storm, was soon filled with boys, who made it ring with songs and shouts, and as they were at the height of hilarity the rebels threw two shells, which struck in the road near a party of horsemen, and also the church, but luckily they did not burst, and so did no damage. But the church was very unceremoniously vacated, some shouting "wait for the benediction," others "hold on, for a collection will soon be taken up," and some concluded that "this ere meetin' was done gone 'smised." Finding the enemy pretty strong in the gap, we made a detour and crossed over on another road which flanked him, while Johnson was successful and drove him out of Hoover's Gap, another strong place of his, but this was strongly contested and we lost many lives – but the particulars have been published.

It was dark, rainy and dreary when we went into camp that night, and only a few officers who boarded with the hospital had rations, or even blankets, and the boys were not much better off, for their blankets were wet, and so was their hard tack and coffee, and sugar; but we were so tired that the wet ground, wet blankets, and leaky tents seemed very inviting, and soon we were all soundly locked in the arms of Morpheus. It rained all night, and the water ran in streams across our beds, yet we slept on. We arose quite early in the morning, and had to prepare our breakfast, consisting of hard tack, "sow belly" and coffee in a drenching rain. We prepared for a march, but no orders came, although we were expecting them all day. The troops on our right had a pretty sharp little fight, and we some expected we would be called upon to "go in," but night found us still waiting orders, and soon we got them, viz: to strike our tents and stay there that night, but be ready to march at 3 o'clock a.m. According to order we were up this morning and ready, but bad roads and the rain prevented our starting until daylight, and of all the mud I ever saw or heard of, this day was the worst, and oh how it did rain, yes, it poured. Every step a person took he went in half way up to his knees, and such muddy boys you never saw or heard of as they were.

As the country was mountainous our progress was very slow. Camped about 5 o'clock nearer worn out, than we have been after a long march over good roads. I saw more broken down loaded wagons, turned over and left than I have before, since I entered the service.

Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, after plodding and dragging through the mud again we reached the little town of Manchester to find Bragg had "skedaddled," and that to, in such a hurry that both bridges over Duck River were saved. This is quite a pretty little place, but shows plainly the desolating marks of war. We arrived here so early that the boys had time to wash and dry their shirts; you must know that our wardrobe only consists of one on this march; the sun was shining in all its splendor, and for once we had a pleasant night, and slept in dry blankets.

Sunday was pleasant in the morning, and we supposed from appearances we

would rest, well knowing that this is Rosecrans' policy, unless something urgent makes it imperative for us to move, but about 11 o'clock orders came to strike tents, and no sooner had we done so than it commenced to pour down, and we were all literally soaked.

I saw a number of old and young ladies in this place, but most of the men are gone. I judge it has been a leading town, for the ladies all "dip" or chew, both old and young. In one very fine mansion I espied four very fair maidens, and as the train was halted I stopped my horse, and naturally turned my rude gaze upon them, for of late such sights are uncommon here; but what was my surprise to see one of them spit a large quid of tobacco from her delicate, or indelicate mouth and I observed a short black stick, resembling a lead pencil protruding from the mouth of each, upon the end of which was a small sponge, I should judge, which they frequently dipped into a small tin cup sitting on the window sill. They seemed to enjoy it hugely, but I turned away in disgust and asked myself the question, could I with pleasure receive a kiss from such lips? No. I believe, as much happiness as it would at this stage of the game afford me, I would rather be excused.

We camped very late that night, wet, muddy and tired, yet slept well, and next morning were ready for our onward move, which proved to be full as hard as any day before. Had deep rivers to wade, in which everything got wet, skirmished considerable, &c., and got into camp wet and tired, and before anything was cooked the regiment was called upon to go on picket, and as we were near the enemy no fires were allowed, so they had to stand all night wet and cold; but the next day (June 30<sup>th</sup>) we did not march, and it gave them a chance to rest. It was a very hot, uncomfortable day, with heavy showers.

About noon of July 1<sup>st</sup> we got orders to move forward, and Sheridan's infantry was the first to enter Tullahoma, that rebel stronghold, which we did without firing a gun. Found three large siege guns, which they were forced to leave, also lots of tents, meal, &c.

July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> were both very tedious days, marching through mud and rain, and skirmishing all the time. Crossed Elk River, which was very swift and had to be forded, it was up to the arm pits of a good many, but no accident of any kind happened, and our Division crossed twelve hours ahead of any other. We also entered the town of Winchester, a strong rebel place, captured a few prisoners but met no resistance.

All the way from Winchester to our present camp skirmishing was kept up pretty freely, and the rebels were drawn up in line of battle at this place for two days before we came in, one whole corps strong, and had they waited to give us battle would probably have made it pretty hot for our Division alone; but something gave them a scare, and when they did leave they left tents, dishes, mess boxes, clothing, &c. &c.

We came in July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and have been here alone until yesterday, when a part of Rosseau's Division joined us.

Our fourth was a dull affair, and with the exception of a salute fired at noon, and one at sundown, nothing happened, for it was not until the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. we heard of the surrender of Vicksburg, and such shouts and salutes as were fired way out here in front must have astonished the natives; and then the next day we heard of Meade's glorious victory, and again we shouted. Surely this rebellion draweth to a close.

These mountains are full of deserters from Bragg's army. Already from 400 to 500 have come into our lines, and swear they will fight no more.

Our regiment and the 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan are out on three days scout. Expect them back tonight.

If anything worthy of note happens I will let you know. The boys all keep well. We expect the trains will come in here by Monday, and then we hope to advance – and soon we hope peace will perch upon our banners. God hasten the day.

Yours in haste,

J. C. D.

*AB, 8-20-1863*

### LETTER FROM THE OLD 36<sup>th</sup>

Head Qrs. 36<sup>th</sup> Ills. Infantry  
Bridgeport, Alabama,  
August 10, 1863

Editors Beacon; Knowing that the good citizens of the Fox Valley have a deep interest in all that pertains to things military, and that they also have an abiding interest in the welfare of the different regiments from that locality, I think that perhaps a few lines from the old "six and thirty," which is preeminently a Fox River institution, will not be unacceptable to your readers.

Since leaving Murfreesboro on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June last, we have had our full share of the fatigues, hardships and perils of a soldier's life, while on an active campaign. The division to which we are attached (Sheridan's) was all the time in

the advance on the route we traveled, and the only reason we did not have a fight was because our boys could not catch up with Bragg's gang of long-legged, slab-sided copper bottoms. Our division was the first to enter Tullahoma, Winchester, Cowan, Anderson, Stevenson and Bridgeport, where we now are.

We encamped on the north bank of the Tennessee River, at the crossing of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, 28 miles from the latter place. It is near the north east corner of the State of Alabama. From our camp we can see land in three States – Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama. The Federal forces under Buell were here last year, but got no farther. When they left they burned the splendid bridge across the river, which the rebels rebuilt; and then Bragg retreated across the Tennessee, he partially destroyed it in turn. There is an island in the river opposite to us, which the secesh hold. From the island to this shore the bridge is burned, except four spans. Upon the opposite side of the island to the southern shore, it is as yet unimpaired, but will doubtless be destroyed if our troops cross, as they have made arrangements to fire it. The first day our troops got to the river, the cavalry could be seen carrying rails and other combustibles into the bridge, and spreading tar upon the timbers. Nothing but the most successful strategy can save the structure, and it will delay our army sometime if it has to be rebuilt before we move forward. Already preparations are being made for crossing, but I cannot say how soon they will be completed. One thing is certain, when we do attempt it if the rebels hold an *argument* with us there will be fun.

The enemy have a line of pickets on this side of the island; our boys fish and swim in the river in plain sight of them. From our tents we can see them relieve guard. The sentries are in long range of each other, but by mutual consent there is no firing on the pickets. Our boys have some interesting conversations with them. The following is a sample.

“Hallo, Secesh!”

“What do you want?” in surly voice.

“John Morgan wants Bragg to send him his descriptive roll, so that he can draw pay.”

“Go to h ll!” the remainder of the sentence being lost before the breeze.

“I say, Secesh, got any tobacco?”

“Plenty of it, would you like a little?”

“Will you trade some for coffee?”

“Yes,”

“When is this muss going to be over?”

“When you Yankees quit stealing niggers, and go home and mind your business.”

At another place a rebel sings out

“Yankee, why don't you come over and see us?”

“When we do we shan’t see anything but your backs, you cowardly sneaking rebels, as we did at Tullahoma,” and so on all along up and down the river bank.

The health of the 36<sup>th</sup> is good, rarely better; the boys are in good spirits. I am not gifted with the spirit of prophecy, as was your whilom correspondent “Tattle Tale,” and therefore cannot tell you when this army will advance; neither am I in possession of immense and momentous secrets, the promulgation of which would be contraband, like the majority of newspaper correspondents in the army, when they have no news to communicate, and I can tell you nothing of what we are going to do, but this much I will venture to predict, that when anything does turn up the 36<sup>th</sup> will be ready for it and have a hand in, whether it is a fight or a foot race.

At the present time we are luxuriating on all the vegetables and fruits of the season, which are very acceptable additions to our hard bread and bacon. We are now almost through our second year’s service as a regiment, and hope ere our time expires, to be once more restored to our homes and friends; but I don’t believe there are many of us that, want to come home till this foul thing called rebellion is “played out.” If there are any such, I don’t know them.

Bill.

*AB, 8-20-1863*

RECRUITS WANTED FOR THE OLD  
36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT

Now’s the time to Enlist, Get your Bounty; and Avoid the Draft !

The undersigned has been detailed for the Recruiting Service, and may be found at the Post Office, St. Charles, ready at all times to take the names of all who would rather enlist in one of the oldest, best drilled and most popular regiments in the service. By enlisting you have your choice of your regiment, and are entitled to all the bounties offered by Government or otherwise for volunteers; all of which you lose if drafted. In case I am absent apply to A. V. Sill Esq. Post Master, who will furnish all necessary information.

JOHN F. ELLIOTT  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Co. “K,” 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Inf. and Cav.  
and Recruiting Officer for said Regiment.

Lieut. Peter Douglas, of Aurora, will enlist any person wishing to join the old 36<sup>th</sup>, and can be found at the Post Office in Aurora, or at Dr. Young's office in Beacon Office Block.

34-4in

*GCH, 9-1-1863*

FOR CO. G. OF THE 36<sup>th</sup> REG. – A box of provisions is being collected to send to Co. G, 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment. All those desirous of contributing anything can leave the same with S. H. Longworth at Rockwell & Shieldaghast store. Such articles as butter, cheese, dried fruit is desirable. Do not bring any bottles or glass jars as they cannot be sent. Lieut. Robert Denning will be in this city some time this week and will see that the box goes to the company.

**Passage of Cumberland Mountains and Tennessee River and Chickamauga, Georgia Campaign, August 16 thru September 22, 1863**

After participating in the outflanking maneuver that drove Bragg from Tullahoma, the 36<sup>th</sup> crossed the Tennessee River on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and went through Winston's Gap to the top of Lookout Mountain.

*WS, 9-2-1863*

The header and first few lines of this article were unreadable. I pick up where it becomes clear.

This is no place of consequence, Stevenson, which is another specimen of Southern enterprise, situated at the junction of the Nashville with the Memphis & Charleston Railroad. It contains about twenty buildings in all, among the most noted of which is the "Alabama House," at present used for the headquarters of Maj. General Sheridan.

Bridgeport once contained a few buildings and a depot, but they have all been destroyed by fire. There is an island in the river at this point, several miles in

length, and the railroad crosses first by bridge to the island, then by another bridge to the main land on the other shore.

In their retreat, the rebels burned the first bridge, rendering it impossible for us to cross, until pontoons are brought forward. The bridge south of the island is kept in readiness to fire, the moment Rosecrans gives the command "forward." They picket the island in plain view, and at times quite a spirited conversation takes place across the river. One of the boys asked a rebel what had become of John Morgan? "Gone to hell," was the quick reply. No picket firing is practiced. Two brigades of our division are here. The other one is at Stevenson.

The 27<sup>th</sup> of July we received four months pay. H. O. Murray, wounded at Perryville, Jackson Conroe and M. M. Throop, both wounded at the battle of Stone River, have found us since I wrote you last. Boys all well. Weather for past few days very warm. Sentinels received occasionally.

Yours, Q. R.

*EG, 9-3-1863*

### THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

Up to this time, Tuesday, not one word has been heard from this regiment. Ten days have passed since the terrible battle, and yet we cannot learn whether our friends are dead or alive. In the list of killed and wounded their names do not appear. The 89<sup>th</sup>, that is in the same Brigade, suffered severely. We have letters written on the night before the battle commenced, and that is the last. The most terrible anxiety pervades the community, and the mail is watched with eagerness. We hope for the best and fear the worst.

Since writing the above, we notice the following report in last night's *Journal*:

*36<sup>th</sup> Illinois – killed – Capt. Hobbs.*

Wounded – Col. W. W. Barrett, Lieut. Col. John Russell, Lieut. Allen, Capt. Clark, Lieut. Merchant. Wounded and missing – Capt. Sanford, H. Wakeman.

*AB, 9-10-1863*

WANTED – CORRESPONDENCE.

Five of Uncle Sam's intelligent young soldiers, who have been deprived of the comforts of home and female society for upwards of two years, now wish to open correspondence with as many young ladies, with a view to fun or love, or the consequences. No Copperheads need apply. Send photographs, if convenient, and receive none. Address, Dick Rollins, Charley Emmet, Harry Hazel, Company E, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., Bridgeport, Ala., Gen. Sheridan's Division.

AB, 9-10-1863

SOLDIER'S CLAIM AGENCY,  
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**REFERENCES :**

We would respectfully refer to  
Maj. Gen. Fred'k Steele  
Col. N. Greusel  
Hon. J. F. Farnsworth  
O. M. Butler, St Charles  
Edwin Gillett  
Brady, Hawkins & Allen  
Messrs Tanner & Rice  
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Maj. Gen. S. R. Curtis  
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Hon. Ira Minard, St Charles  
Hon. W. F. Osgood “  
Mayor of Aurora  
“  
“  
“

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25-

*SDD, 9-16-1863*

PERSONAL.

---

-- Capt. E. H. Sylla is in town, and is looking well. He is home for a few days and will soon return to his post.

-- Paul R. Wright, Esq., is re-visiting his old friends, and intends staying for a few weeks,

-- Charlie Duck will start for his regiment, the 127<sup>th</sup> Ill., on Monday next, and will take letters to any of the boys. All letters may be left at the office of E. S. Joslyn.

-- I. N. Buck has gone to Washington of business connected with the Commissary Department of the army.

-- Col. Joslyn is attending court at Sycamore this week.

-- P. Jones, of the firm of Hemmens & Jones, has gone East to procure a stock of Fall and Winter goods.

-- A. C. Wallin, Esq., of Chicago, is in town and will remain until Saturday evening.

**Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia, September 19-20, 1863**

Flushed by his success at having taken the vital railway center of Chattanooga without giving battle, "Old Rosey" now confidently drove his Army of the Cumberland into the deep forests across the Georgia border near Chickamauga Creek. It was here that Bragg finally decided to fight.

The Fox River Regiment had marched twenty miles in one day through the mountain passes and without water. Hearing that fighting had broken out, the men made another rapid march to Crawfish Springs, pausing only to fill their canteens. Then, they followed their new brigade commander, General William H. Lytle, as he led them on horseback, calmly smoking a cigar. The 36<sup>th</sup> became part of Gordon's reserve corps and did not participate in the battle of Chickamauga the first day.

On the second day, Rosecrans ordered the regiment forward along with the rest of Sheridan's division.

The Army of the Cumberland seemed to be winning until a fatal blunder occurred. Seeking to close an imaginary gap in the line, Rosecrans opened a real one by ordering the withdrawal of Thomas Wood's division at just the wrong time. Through that gap came Confederate General James Longstreet with his entire corps howling after him. Sheridan's division tried vainly to stop the avalanche. Colonel Miller later wrote that the 36<sup>th</sup> was shoved into line, having no more chance "than a broken - back cat in hell without claws."

General Lytle was killed by a bullet and Colonel Miller took over while the Fox River boys fired their Springfields until their faces were black with powder soot. Firing as it retired, the 36<sup>th</sup> was the last regiment to withdraw from the fatal gap.

Although Union General George H. Thomas, "the Rock of Chickamauga", continued to hold the left wing on Snodgrass Hill, the entire right wing had been thrown into retreat back to Chattanooga, the 36<sup>th</sup> with it.

Thus ended Chickamauga, the bloodiest battle in the west. The combined casualties of both armies mounted to nearly 35,000.

The 36<sup>th</sup> and the 89<sup>th</sup> in the late fight. – We have but few details of the late fight below Chattanooga. We know that hundreds were wounded and killed, but not so many as was first reported. The latest dispatches report the advantage to our side upon the whole. We know that the 89<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> were in the fight and that the 89<sup>th</sup> suffered severely. We clip the following from a correspondence in the Tribune of yesterday, which gives the locality of the 36<sup>th</sup> before and during the engagement.

“Gen. William H. Lytle, is in command of three brigades – our own and one each from Johnson’s and Davis’ divisions – that being the force to act as guard to our corps train. Meanwhile the command of our brigade – in the absence of Col. Frank Sherman of your city, who has been home on a sick furlough, but who is now again on his way to the front – devolves on Col. Silas Miller of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., a young man who has fought his way up, and who for modest worth and manly valor is the equal of any living man.

---A dispatch from Adjutant General Fuller arrived yesterday, requesting Dr. Young to go to Chattanooga, and attend to the wounded of the late battle. He went on the four o’clock p.m.

*GCH, 9-30-1863*

WOUNDED. – As we go to press it is rumored that Capt. Linus Austin and Lieut Denning were wounded in the late engagement in Georgia. Captain Austin is expected in the city today, and will be able to give a satisfactory account of our boys in the glorious 36<sup>th</sup>. Capt. Austin entered the army as Orderly in Co. G, 36<sup>th</sup> Reg. Ill. Vol. about the first of August, 1861, since which time he has been in constant active service with the regiment, which has participated in most of the glorious battles of the west and south west.

He had, up to the fight in Georgia, escaped unharmed; and for the fact that he is able to travel, we infer that his present wound is not serious. Having nobly won the successive promotions he has received he now for the first time since his enlistment returns home; bearing the well earned laurels of a brave and successful soldier. His numerous friends at Morris will rejoice to welcome him back, and testify their appreciation of his services and soldierly conduct by the most hearty greetings and cheerful smile.

*WS, 9-30-1863*

FROM ROSECRANS' ARMY

A letter received from Col. F. T. Sherman, of the 88<sup>th</sup>, by his family, dated Nashville last Thursday, says Captains Chickering and Sheridan are slightly wounded. Lieut. McMurtry is shot through the leg and is at Nashville. Lieut. Ray and Lieut. Lawrence are badly wounded. Lieut. Col. Chadbourn is slightly wounded. Major is all right. He also says the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois had six officers killed – Capt. Campbell, Hobbs and Wakeman and Lieutenant in each of their companies, Capt. Austin, of the 36<sup>th</sup> is wounded.

**The Siege of Chattanooga, September 24 thru November 23, 1863**

Bragg now moved to besiege Chattanooga. Rosecrans was dismissed, and Thomas took over the defeated Army of the Cumberland. Because Chattanooga was the gateway to the deep South, it had to be held at all costs. The Union Army of Tennessee joined Thomas, along with William T. Sherman. "Fighting Joe" Hooker and two corps of the Army of the Potomac provided additional reinforcements. U.S. Grant himself arrived to exercise overall command.

*AB, 10-1-1863*

FROM COMPANY A, 36<sup>th</sup> CAVALRY

New Orleans, La., Sept. 12, 1863.

Eds. Beacon; -- I have postponed writing thus long from the fact that I have had nothing in particular to tell you, and would put it off longer for the same reasons, were we not expecting to start on an important move very soon. Where we (the 13<sup>th</sup> army corps) are going I am unable to say for a certainty, but can variously guess. Some are of the opinion that we will find our first destination at Galveston, Texas from whence we will make the Rio Grande, in conjunction with the large army now organizing at New York city, to operate against the French

army in Mexico, or any other enemy of the United States which may appear in that quarter of North America.

Since the fall of Vicksburg we have had an excellent rest – excellent with the exception of the vast amount of sickness prevalent on our arrival here. Our first two weeks stay here were noted by a funeral dirge once in about sixty minutes, from reveille to retreat. These were gloomy days for the heroes of many battles. But our men have now stopped dying, and are nerving their hearts for another conflict. May the God of battles, who presided over us in our past efforts, we do pray, guide us with the strong arm of victory for the cause of free government.

Nothing has transpired here of any moment since our arrival on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August. We have had reviews as often as once a week, by Gens. Banks, Grant and Adjutant General Thomas.

On the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup>, after general review, Gen. Grant, riding a spirited horse, came in contact with a hack, and was seriously, and thought mortally wounded. But since then he has been convalescent, and is now thought to be out of danger.

Gen. Herron's division went up the river to stop at or near Port Hudson, where it was thought the enemy were congregating in force. Since, we have heard that they have had a battle. Co. A, 36<sup>th</sup> cavalry, went as escort to Gen. Herron. We are now expecting the division to return at any day.

I will say a single word about Capt. Willis' Co. of cavalry, but nothing flattering, as I understand my letters have caused a good deal of jealousy on the part of some other companies raised in Aurora. I am sorry to have anyone think that I would want to do such a thing as to emulate our company beyond its just deserts. Far from it. All I have ever written of our company has been unprejudiced on my part, either one way or the other, and more, in fact, for the benefit of the friends and relatives of its members. A large number of our men have been on the sick list for a long time, and few of us have escaped being nearly shaken to death by ague and burnt up with fever. Some have been dangerously sick, and one or two are so yet. A few will soon return home on furloughs.

We have had no letters for a long time; we are getting quite indifferent about such things now, as we shall soon be home – to our long or our short one. Friends writing to us will please direct Cav. Brigade, 13<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, care of Maj. Wilson.

E.

## THE NEWS

From Chattanooga we begin to get the details of the late fight. As yet but partial lists of the killed and wounded have been received, but enough is known to give us some idea of the terrible conflict. The 36<sup>th</sup> and 89<sup>th</sup> were badly handled, but we have no particulars save the report from Nashville that Capts. Campbell, of Co. B, 36<sup>th</sup>, and Hobbs, of Co. C, 36<sup>th</sup>, are killed, and that Lieut. Wakeman and Capt. Austin, from Morris are wounded. No list of the casualties among the privates has been received, and the list of officers given is not official, and may prove incorrect. It is rumored that six of the officers of the 36<sup>th</sup> are killed, but this we do not believe is true, for if it is some authentic intelligence of the fact would have been received by friends in this region.

The army of the Cumberland is well concentrated at Chattanooga, with its line of communication with the north open and undisturbed, and large reinforcements on their way there. Gens. Crittenden and McCook have been relieved from command of their respective corps, and a court of inquiry appointed to investigate their conduct during the late fight. There is no doubt what the enemy were punished more severely than ours, and the confidence of our army is unbounded in its ability to maintain its position and carry the war still further into the interior of the Confederacy.

Gen. Burnside is reported to be on his way north, his resignation having been accepted. Gen. Hooker has gone to the army of the Cumberland, and will probably be assigned to the command of McCook's or Crittenden's corps, or to Burnside's command.

From Vicksburg, New Orleans and Charleston, there is nothing new. Our forces are in quiet possession of Little Rock; Arkansas, and Gen. Blunt is pushing the army in the extreme west. The expedition sent to Texas, has been heard from, and there is nothing as yet to discourage confident hopes of immediate success.

*SDD, 10-7-1863*

Laf. Perry and one of Mr. Mann's boys, of Co. B, cavalry 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., were taken prisoners in the late battle in Georgia

EG, 10-7-1863

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

We have at last some intelligence from our friends in that noble regiment. A good many of the boys were sick with ague, so that only about three hundred entered the battle. They came up on Sunday on double quick to stay the tide, were flanked on the left, and that portion of the regiment nearly destroyed. Company A, being on the right, fell back in good order, losing but little. Leonard Mann writes that his friend received a ball in the breast which penetrated his diary and a number of letters and then inflicted a flesh wound. We are permitted to copy the following from Bent Rowland to his father.

Chattanooga, Sept. 26, 1863.

Dear Parents: -- Once more through the blessings of God, I am permitted to write you hoping it will speedily reach you, for I well know what anxiety you are laboring under by this time, knowing, as you do, that our army has been again engaged in a fearful battle, through which God, in his infinite mercy, has seen fit to pass me safely. We are now, as you of course know, laying before Chattanooga busily at work fortifying the place. The enemy lay directly on our front, our pickets within easy shooting distance. We expected them to attack us immediately after we fell back, but they have not done so as yet in any force, and every day that passes makes it more and more difficult for them to do so with any hope of success.

I have just come in from falling timber in front of our works, and am now writing by the light of the fire. The battle that we fought last Saturday and Sunday was one of the most fearful, taking all into consideration, that I ever witnessed. We were not engaged until Sunday and then only about half or three quarters of an hour, during which time our regiment lost, in killed and wounded, something over one hundred and fifty men. Our company was more fortunate than most of the other companies of the regiment, as they flanked us on the left instead of the right, consequently the loss was much heavier on the left than on the right. We lost (that is, our company,) two killed and six wounded. The killed were John O'Connell, of Barrington; and Charles Rapp, of Crystal Lake. As for myself I only received a slight wound in the calf of my left leg. It made me quite lame, but I have been with the company all the time.

Some may say that we were whipped because we had to fall back. Just tell all such that Old Rosies' army is *not whipped*. That they have lost heavy there is

no doubt; but they gave as good as they got. And now if they will hold our rear by reinforcements, and not suffer us to be compelled to leave here by being flanked, we will hold Chattanooga. Now I must close. I would like to give you some description of our movements, but it is as much as I can do to write this by the light I have. God bless you all.

This from your ever loving son,

Bent Rowland.

P. S. – Our Captain was wounded, but not badly. Leroy is now in command of the company. He acquitted himself splendidly through the battle, so did all the boys. Elgin need not be ashamed of her boys.

*WS, 10-7-1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

On The Battleground,  
Four Miles from Chattanooga Tenn.,  
September 21, 1863.

EDITORS SENTINEL:

I improve the present lull in the battle, to write you a list of the casualties in Co. H. This is somewhat incorrect, but the best that can be done at present. The fight commenced on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and continued almost incessantly throughout the day, -- our Brigade was engaged on the 20<sup>th</sup>, -- some were brought under fire. About 10 ½ a. m. Gen. Lytle tried to form our brigade, but too late; the troops whom we were to support, stampeded before we could get into line. Gen. Lytle advanced at the head of the 88<sup>th</sup> Ill. By the time our left was in line, our right was drawn back, but our brave General did not come back with us, we left his body on the field. Capt. Wakeman wounded severely; Lieut. Smith wounded severely; Sergt. John C. Wolfe, wounded in arm; Day Elmore wounded severely; Wilson Lawson wounded in face; Madison Gould wounded in shoulder; Chas. Dygert wounded in body; Caleb Ford wounded very slightly; Samuel Carver very slightly; John Holderman in head; Charley Irish in hand; George Jackson missing; E. B. Lamb dead; Harrison Montgomery in breast; J. K. Perkins wounded and missing; Throop in

head; O. Banners in body; David Warwick killed. This is as near as we can give an account at present.

The Company went in with . This morning there were twelve. But this is not over yet, nor will it be for some time yet, unless we conquer, for we can fight for a couple weeks yet. We look for reinforcements.

Yours, Myron D. Kent.

### **In October the Regiment Transfers to the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, 4<sup>th</sup> Army Corps until August, 1865**

*AB, 10-8-1863*

Company B, 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment. – By letter from Lieut. Peter G. Douglas, we learn of the following casualties in Company B during the recent engagement;

Capt. B. F. Campbell, wounded and prisoner.

Lieut. Sam Hitchcock, killed.

Corp. E. E. Parker, “

Jacob Winn, “

Rudolph Brager, slightly wounded.

Oliver Brownlee, in right leg.

Christian Brunnemeyer, in face.

Adam Campbell, in hand.

Frank Dugan, in hip.

Charles Hingre, in groin.

Frederick Hinie, in head.

Henry Levoy, in hand.

John Ott, in arm.

Daniel B. Roberts, in face.

Daniel Jerry, in thigh.

The loss in the regiment in killed, wounded and missing, is 134. This number will be reduced beyond a doubt, as many of the missing will turn up as well as ever. We are daily expecting an official list of all the casualties in the regiment, and also of the 89<sup>th</sup> and Co. B. Cavalry. Capt. Sam Sherer, of the latter company is now dangerously ill with erysipelas, at Chattanooga. He passed

through the fight unscathed, and was taken to the hospital immediately after.

*AB, 10-8-1863*

The following are the casualties of Company E, (Bristol) 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, during the late fight;

Killed, -- Capt. Hobbs, Lieut. Aaron Smith, privates Comfort Brace, and Wolf.

Wounded. – Dellmer Burnside, Wm. Willett, John Pfanstied, M. Blue, W. Hanson, James Hatch, Henry Hennis, R. W. Perrin, Oscar Pecoy, H. Smith, W. Zellar.

Missing. – E. Soya, and Barney Wheeler.

Capt. Hobbs was wounded three times, and left on the field in the hands of the enemy. He is believed to be dead.

*AB, 10-8-1863*

#### CHATTANOOGA.

This point is destined to live in history. Whatever the result of the great battle pending between the powerful armies of Rosecrans and Bragg may be, its immediate results we mean, for in any event the rebellion will be weakened, the point near which so terrific a battle has been fought will have a historic renown equal to that of Austerlitz or Wagram. Confederate success there must weaken the rebellion, Federal success crush it. We have no doubt of the final result. Chattanooga is the key of the south east – the extremity of that great wedge shaped valley, between the Blue Ridge and the Alleghanies, which divides Virginia, separates Kentucky and Tennessee from that state and the two Carolinas, and rests its point upon Georgia, where that wonderful stream, the Tennessee, after running the whole length of the valley, turns suddenly around the foot of the mountains, and swells northward and westward through the State that gives it its name. A traveler, describing the river forcing its way through the mountains says;

“This it does just as the Hudson does through the highlands and the Shenandoah at Harpers Ferry. The scene where the river passes the Cumberland is similar to that at West Point or Harpers Ferry. It is the only one in the United States that I know of which that can compare with either. Striving to force its way the Tennessee is compressed into a narrow gorge, which seem to small for the

steamboats to pass. Rocks are below like those at Hell-Gate, which are called nearly the same names. The grand Lookout Mountains rise probably 1200 feet above the pass, and in this gorge is Chattanooga”

*SDD, 10-14-1863*

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

S. Joslyn

Attorney At Law and Solicitor  
in chancery. Will attend to the collection  
of the soldier's claims against  
the Government. Office over Sherman's  
Drug Store. Elgin, Illinois.

*EG, 10-14-1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

## LETTER FROM MAJ. GEORGE SHERMAN.

Head Quarters, 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois,  
Chattanooga, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1863.

Dear Folks at Home: -- The third campaign in the “Army of the Cumberland,” under Rosecrans, is virtually at an end, though the enemy still maintain a strong position directly in our front, and when the facts are laid before the public, and everything is taken into consideration, then let those at home judge of its merits.

The rough mountainous country through which this campaign has been carried on, the long line of communications to be kept opened, with only a single line of railroad with which to supply the army; a river to be crossed in the face of the enemy; a hard fought battle with a foe in his chosen position; an army of fifty thousand contending with an opposing force of fully eighty thousand, and yet, with all these difficulties, Rosecrans has gained and permanently holds Chattanooga, the key to the gulf States, in fact, of the entire South.

The first campaign of this army was, of necessity, a battle, owing to the strong position which the rebels held, in truth it was the key to Tennessee, as the

despondency of the rebels abundantly showed at the time, and subsequent events have confirmed the fact. The next campaign was a flanking one, and gave us Tennessee to the river. The third campaign has turned to be a combination of both, though I have no doubt Rosecrans had little idea, at the outset of the campaign, of a general engagement, but was compelled to fight on account of the heavy reinforcements which Bragg received from Virginia.

When Rosecrans began this campaign he could only count on an opposing force consisting of Bragg's old army reinforced by Johnson's of fifteen thousand and Buckner of ten thousand, which would not have made Bragg's entire force any larger than ours if as large.

The rebels no doubt were taken by surprise when they found Rosecrans had crossed the river, not having waited, as they supposed he would do, to complete the railroad bridge. But had he not crossed when he did, I doubt he would have crossed at all without fearful loss of life, and even then the chances were that it might turn out a second Fredericksburg affair. Bragg finding himself out generalled in Rosecrans crossing of the river, and not having sufficient force to oppose him, had no alternative but to fall back to some point where he could protect his lines of communication and wait for his reinforcements, already on the way, which he did, taking a strong position on Missionary Ridge along the Chickamango Creek.

The flank movement made by the right wing, and which extended to Alpine Gap, about fifty miles below Chattanooga, would have resulted in the annihilation of Bragg's old army, but, if fortunate enough to have escaped, would have compelled him to fall back to Rome or even as far as Atlanta. It was, I believe, when we arrived at Alpine, that Rosecrans became convinced that Bragg was being strongly reinforced from Virginia. Being placed in this position it became necessary for Rosecrans to stand a fight in order to save Chattanooga and prevent the right wing from total defeat, and having placed Thomas (the Ney of the army,) in position on the left, he hurried McCook's corps with all speed to its position on the right, and with his line extending along the Chickamauga Creek, he awaited the attack of the enemy.

The fight began early on Saturday morning and raged with fury all day long, and night found the line nearly the same, though the rebels had made several desperate attempts to break the center and turn the left. Sunday came and went, and on that day was fighting done that would dim the conflict of Waterloo, with all the embellishments which time is wont to lend to events, rolled far back into the future.

Being a portion of McCook's corps, we marched all night of the 18<sup>th</sup> inst., (Friday) and did not get into our position on the right until nearly 1 o'clock on Saturday, and only the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of our Division was engaged at all during the

day. Sunday morning we moved up towards the left, our line have been somewhat shortened during the night, and were placed in position on a rise of ground overlooking a cornfield directly in our front, to the left of this a cotton field with a dense underbrush beyond. In this position we remained until nearly ten o'clock. During this time heavy fighting had been going on to the left of us. The rattle of musketry and the roar of artillery was awful. "Stone River" was a skirmish compared to it. Charge after charge was made by the rebels to break our left and center. Thomas held his own. About this time a *heavy* feint was made on our center and came near breaking it, so that a division on our left was sent to its support. The real attack however was on the right, and the rebels came pouring upon us like a tornado. The position of our division, which Sheridan had selected with care, was such as to have checked the enemy, at least, until reinforcements could have come up, and, I think, with such a loss that they would not have attempted it a second time. *Fatal Mistake!* We were moved, and that, too, under fire from the advancing enemy. We were formed into column of companies, moved at double quick about twenty rods and deployed into line. Then the slaughter became dreadful; the dead and wounded fell thick and fast; the rattle of the musketry was deafening. The artillery was brought into position at a mad gallop, the cannoniers sprang to their posts, and for one moment, and only one, the roar of the artillery was like a hurricane, in the next it was silent, having been brought into action too late for efficient service. The rebels were up on us before we had our lines fully formed. We moved forward under a heavy fire and gained a slight ridge, which position the boys maintained for a little time under a withering fire, but a second line coming upon us compelled us to fall back. Again we rallied and again gained the ridge, but all in vain. They came pouring upon us in overpowering numbers, and our left being unprotected, we were swept back like chaff before the wind. It was at this point, while rallying the almost overpowered line for a second advance, that our brave Gen. Lytle fell mortally wounded, shot in the face, the ball coming out at the side of the head. He was carried to the rear and lived but a short time. His body fell into the hands of the enemy.

Gen. Lytle was a man loved by all who knew him; he was everything that goes to make up a soldier. The honor which he had earned rested lightly upon him. Besides all that he was a true gentleman, and had endeared himself warmly to officers and men. He was formerly Col. of the 10<sup>th</sup> Ohio, and entered the service at the commencement of the war. He commanded a brigade until after the battle of Perryville, where he was wounded and taken prisoner, after which he received the well won promotion of Brigadier General. His bravery was not surpassed by any in the army, and we have to mourn the loss of one of its bravest Generals.

Col. Miller, of the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois, being next in rank, assumed command of the Brigade, which he did with great credit to himself, showing a coolness and bravery

rarely seen in one so young. Though constantly exposing himself he escaped unhurt.

After our line was compelled to fall back before superior numbers, we moved in the direction of Chattanooga and before we had gone a mile to the rear, the whole division was reformed, the stragglers all picked up, and there, even though we were forced back, three times three cheers were given for the old flag, which made the woods ring with its cheering sound.

We then moved down the road going to Chattanooga; went to Rossville near where Thomas' left rested, and going back three miles towards the rebels line, saved an ammunition train of fifty seven wagons. We were broken up it is true, but demoralized, *never*.

The 36<sup>th</sup> regiment lost one hundred and forty two in killed, wounded and missing; the killed amounts to nineteen.

Company A lost two killed, Rapp and O'Connell; Capt. Mitchell wounded in leg, doing well, gone to Nashville; Siealoff in the arm; Nute in the side; Long in the hand. Missing, Fred Krahn. Capt. Wakeman was badly wounded and left in the hands of the enemy. It is feared that he is dead as his name is not among the list of prisoners furnished by the rebels. (Since died)

I came out of the fight unhurt, though my horse was shot in the neck, and a canteen was shot off the front of my saddle, the ball passing between my leg and the saddle skirt,

From your affectionate son,  
George.

*EG, 10-21-1863*

### THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND MORE.

The President calls for three hundred thousand volunteers to take the place of the men whose term of enlistment is soon to expire. Volunteering will, of course, be slow. In this State, stimulated by the large bounty, the quota may be filled, but in the East, the draft alone will bring the men. It is said the present conscription law will not bring the men, very well, in December Congress will assemble, and the law can be so amended as to fill up the ranks. The men must be had. If white men have got tired of their service, then the black man must finish up the war, save the country and bear the glory forever. In connection with this call, which will produce but few men this year, we have an order regulating the enlistment of the colored men. Slaves of loyal men are to be enlisted and their

masters paid the three hundred dollars, paid by drafted men for exemption. The slaves of disloyal men are taken without pay. Thus the entire slave population is placed under conscription, and the able bodied men taken for the army. Thus the ranks of the Union army will be kept full. Dark days will come but let us never despair of the Republic. The day of redemption draweth nigh.

*WS, 10-21-1863*

#### CASUALTIES IN THE WOODSTOCK RIFLES

In the Chicago Tribune we find the official report of the casualties in Company H, 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois Regiment, (formerly commanded by Capt. Joslyn), at the late battle of Chickamauga. It is as follows:

Co. H – Capt. S. H. Wakeman, dangerously and captured; Lieut. A. M. Smith, dangerously and captured; Ebenezer Lamb, killed; David Warwick, killed; John C. Wolfe, arm; Day Elmore, lungs; S. Z. Carver, leg slight; M. W. Gould, back slight; Chas. Dygert, breast; Chas. Irish, arm; John Holderman, head slight; Harrison Montgomery, lungs, died Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>; Addison M. Troop, head; Cornelius Vaurese, arm; Henry C. Murray, shoulder.

We understand that letters received by his friends at Crystal Lake, assert that Lieut. Smith died soon after the battle. This company has been in four hard contested battles, and has suffered more severely than any other Company that ever left McHenry County.

*AB, 10-29-1863*

The following letter has been received by Holmes Miller, to be forwarded to his brother the Colonel.

Libby Prison, Richmond, Va.,  
Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1863

Friend Silas: -- I will improve the present opportunity of addressing you a few lines.

You are no doubt aware of my misfortune in being wounded and captured by a force of the enemy, which move in around the left flank of our regiment on the 20<sup>th</sup> Sept.; that part of the line giving way before the advancing foe, exposed the left wing of the old 36<sup>th</sup> to a galling and destructive cross fire, with a prospect of being bagged, as the force on our left could not be rallied to our support. Still our brave boys worked on, never flinching, until the order sounded along the line to fall back and take another position; this was done. I rallied my men about 20 yards in rear of the line we had just retired from, and again moved forward, when near where the first line was I was sent sprawling to mother earth, almost helpless, from the effects of a shot in the right breast, operating severely on my ribs, at the same time causing me to spit blood quite freely. In this plight I was soon surrounded by the enemy and called on for my implements of warfare by a Lieut. Col. of a Georgia regiment, who coolly told me to go to the rear; that was impossible then, being very weak. After recovering slightly, I with much difficulty rose to my feet, and was escorted to the rear with others by the post guard. I arrived in Richmond Sept. 30, and was put in Libby Prison. There are now 825 Federal officers confined here awaiting exchange; we occupy six rooms with privileges to visit any of those rooms at will. The old hospital room of this building has been fitted up for a dining hall; do our own cooking in the basement – quite an improvement on the former style, in addition to this, we are permitted to send outside the prison and purchase many things we need, at rates which will make bankrupts of us all if not soon exchanged.

My wound is doing well, hope to be with you soon; do not fail to write me. My regards to all the boys.

Yours respectfully  
Capt. B. F. Campbell  
Prisoner of war, Libby Prison  
Richmond, Virginia.  
Via Fortress Monroe, care Gen. Meredith.

*AB, 11-5-1863*

LETTER FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT

Chattanooga, Tenn.,  
Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1863

Eds. Beacon; -- We have just recovered from the effects of another terrible battle on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September, at Chickamauga Creek, six miles south of this point, and are now fortifying strongly in front of Chattanooga, where the spade and pick, and the falling of giant oaks, interspersed with the whiz of rebel bullets, greet our ears in the darkness of the night as the work goes on. Our position is firm, and yet firmer the soldiers who are to protect it. But of the battle and the 36<sup>th</sup>. We feel sad and gloomy on looking through our thinned ranks, to find so many of our comrades missing, many of whom, brave boys, are no more.

Our regiment was not engaged on Saturday, being in reserve, but on Sunday morning were ordered to the front and extreme right. Firing commenced about 8 o'clock, near the center, and soon the artillery and musketry were deafening at different points. The left of our division was being pushed, and our brigade was ordered to its support on a double quick. We formed line and took position under a heavy fire of the enemy, two pieces of artillery, the horses attached riderless and wild with fright, rushing through our ranks, wounded and dead soldiers obstructing the way, -- yet the 36<sup>th</sup> went on, and with a glorious cheer and a more glorious charge, drove the enemy from the hill, but at a woeful sacrifice. Being already flanked the cross fire was telling fearfully, and soon were compelled to retire before superior numbers. It was here that the brave Gen. Lytle, our brigade commander, fell, an officer of whom we have the most profound esteem, and whose gallantry and patriotism we cannot forget. Upon Col. Silas Miller devolved the command, who fought us with the balance of our division. Our loss is commissioned officers 9; Capts. Hobbs, Co. E; Campbell, Co. B; Wakeman, Co. H; badly wounded and prisoners. Lieuts. Smith, Co. H, and Smith, Co. E, killed. Capts. Mitchell, Austin, Mossman and Lieut. Denning, wounded. Enlisted men killed, wounded and missing, 145. We have total for duty in the regiment, 168. Two years yesterday we left Aurora with near 900 men. Another battle and the 36<sup>th</sup> must be numbered with the things that were.

Orve.

*AB, 11-5-1863*

### THE QUOTA OF ILLINOIS

The order of Adjutant General Fuller furnishes some interesting information in reference to the quota of troops to be raised by the State under the call of the

President for 300,000 volunteers. The quota assigned to the State excessive of credits, is 27,980. Deducting the excess of 8,151, credited to the State under previous calls, the number of troops to be furnished by volunteering under the call is 19,779.

In addition to the excess conceded to the State by the general Government, the Adjutant General states that a claim for an additional excess of about 8,000 men (enlisted, we presume, in regiments organized in other states,) is awaiting the decision of the War Department. Should this new claim be allowed, the number of men remaining to be furnished by volunteering will be between eleven and twelve thousand.

*WS, 11-11-1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Camp Lytle,  
Chattanooga, Oct. 15, 1863.

EDITOR SENTINEL:

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, I wrote you a short note, containing the casualties of the Woodstock Rifles, Co. H, 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry. Until the battle of Chickamauga was decided, no mail was permitted to leave this place, and it is probably owing to that reason that my letter is not in the Sentinel now before me. But in it I find the following, "on the authority of Mr. Shanks, of the New York Herald:"

"The official accounts of the battle from Washington, are in the main incorrect and false, and that the Army of the Cumberland has met with defeat, which must put it on the defensive for some time to come. Thomas' corps was nearly the only one that did any fighting. On the first day it defeated Longstreet with terrible slaughter, driving him with confusion for over a mile across the Chickamauga River. Longstreet, in two hours fighting lost over a thousand men killed, and double that number in wounded. McCook and Crittenden's corps were both badly beaten, and the enemy broke our center, driving Crittenden in every direction. \* \* \* On the first day Thomas defeated Longstreet, and on the second, he saved the army of Rosecrans from annihilation. From 10 to 12 o'clock on Sunday, he repulsed the enemy on three charges, when finding assault in vain, the enemy pushed forward on the right and center, and at the first charge broke Crittenden and McCook's lines, and routed their commands, driving them in disgraceful panic towards Rossville and Chattanooga. \* \* \* The result is virtually a defeat to us, as we have lost not less than fifty pieces of artillery."

Is such an abominable lie as that justice to the veteran soldiers of this army? Is it justice to the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois, who had the honor to form a part of Sheridan's division? Are we to be encouraged in that manner, after having bore the brunt of three major battles before we came, and never faltered? As often as our ranks have been ploughed by the enemy's grape and canister, and been thinned by their musketry, can it be said that on the field of Chickamauga, we broke and ran panic stricken. God Forbid! On Saturday, the 19<sup>th</sup> McCook's corps repulsed charge after charge, and were terribly slaughtered, but lost no ground, not one inch. Our brigade was on the extreme right, and had our lines fallen back a rod, I should have known it. On Sunday, the enemy massed his force, and attacked our right. There the line was only one regiment deep. When the charge was made, our brigade was on the right of the point, but where the line wavered our brigade was ordered to support it. We moved on the double quick to support it, with our brave and gallant General, Wm. H. Lytle, at the head. We formed a line of battle in the face of a charge, and with the front line, artillery, and all breaking through, is it reasonable to suppose that a brigade in single line can drive back solid columns, and that without the aid of artillery? In the beginning of the assault our General fell mortally wounded, and did the first brigade, because their General was slain, run panic stricken? Nary time. When overpowered, we fell back, and awaited the visit; again overpowered we fell back. All this time, our ranks were being thinned by a murderous flank fire. When we went into Rossville and Chattanooga, it was with General Sheridan at our head, and in good order. Do the casualties of my company, with a loss of eighteen killed or wounded out of twenty-eight, and both officers, lead you to think that they left the field without a stubborn resistance?

McCook may have erred, but he is no coward. I am not a military critic, and therefore do not consider myself capable of judging. We put our trust in God and Rosecrans. We have not been whipped nor can we be. Rosecrans' object was to occupy and retain Chattanooga. Bragg's according to their own account, not only to regain Chattanooga, but to gobble this army. The question is, do we occupy Chattanooga, or do we not? Does Rosecrans control this army, or does Bragg? Methinks Bragg is virtually defeated.

Thomas' corps is about as large again as either McCook or Crittenden's. They fought well, but they unaided did not gain the battle of Chickamauga. We cherish the memories of our brave companions who there fell, and we tender our heartfelt sympathies to their relatives and friends at home.

I can account for that letter of Mr. Shanks, for he must have gained his information in this town, of stragglers, particularly his fifty pieces of artillery. I should like to see that loyal gentleman here in camp, and let the boys all know that he it was who fathered that article. I think he would find our vengeance quick,

desperate, and piercing.

Very respectfully, your od't serv't,

MYRON D. KENT  
Private Co. H, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vol.

*AB, 11-26-1863*

### THE CASE OF GEN. ROSECRANS

“Agate,” the well known Washington correspondent to the Cincinnati Gazette, communicates to the New York Tribune a long letter in reference to Gen. Rosecrans. It is the most succinct statement of the grounds for the action of this government toward this popular and distinguished officer, that we have yet seen. It is also free from the bitterness which has characterized certain newspaper statements immediately after Gen. Rosecrans' removal – a fact which will go far to commend it to more general confidence than any received. Briefly summed up, the charges are as follows.

His delay after the battle of Stones River from New Years until June, when a movement of his army would have relieved our forces both East and West.

Another delay after the occupation of Tullahoma of a month and a half, which gave rise to a sharp and even bitter correspondence between Rosecrans and the Department, tending to widen the breach between them.

Alleged mismanagement of the Chickamauga campaign.

Leaving the army in the crisis of the battle of Chickamauga and stampeding to Chattanooga upon the reports of stragglers that Negley's troops upon the left had been routed.

The contraction of the lines within Chattanooga, and the abandonment of Lookout Mountain, by which he gave up his communications upon the south side of the Tennessee.

The last charge is complicity with Col. Truesdail, of the army police, who is charged with being a disreputable officer, and a disagreement between himself and Gen. Grant. – *Springfield Journal*.

*WS, 12-2-1863*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Camp Lytle,  
Chattanooga, Nov. 18, 1863

EDITOR SENTINEL:

Your regular correspondent, being at present absent with leave, I will take the liberty of writing a few lines occasionally.

The Sentinel of November 11<sup>th</sup> has arrived, and been thoroughly read by all McHenry County boys in the 36<sup>th</sup>. One article, taken from a Chicago paper, says that much blame is attached to Gen. Rosecrans by leading men and officers, and the writer says that he is inclined to believe that the real condition of this army has never been known outside of it. He thinks, had Rosecrans remained much longer, he would have been starved out and captured. Before the removal of Gen. Rosecrans, what loyal newspaper or correspondent ever spoke but in a complimentary manner of our revered Commander; whoever doubted his ability or loyalty, where did he ever fail, or where was he ever defeated; what other general has had so many difficulties to contend with, and has gained so much territory; what other army has been so far from its base of supplies? Our lines have been guarded, and our trains have been brought through in safety. Bragg, notwithstanding the aid sent him from Virginia, has been whipped, and the army of the Cumberland occupies Chattanooga. That correspondent says it is believed Rosecrans was decoyed to Chickamauga, whereas to get possession of this town it had to be flanked, and to do that, our part of the army had to cross the mountain below this place. Had it been possible for us to cross the river and come into town direct, what would have been the result? I suppose most of your readers have read of the battle of Shiloh, and that was Gen. Grant's miraculous strategy? Here we could not have been aided by gunboats or Gen. Buell, for we were alone. Were all our Generals as anxious to crush the rebellion, and had they pushed forward in like manner, things would have assumed a different aspect. If it is necessary for correspondents, in order to get favors from one General, to backbite another, 'twould be a benefit to ship them all or conscript them. What would General Grant, or any other General, have done towards getting Lookout Mountain, without the assistance of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> corps? How many more troops has General

Grant to operate with than Rosecrans had? Help from the Mississippi and from the Potomac make some difference; so far as the feelings of the officers and men are concerned in our brigade I know all idolize Rosecrans. Their confidence in him is unlimited.

It is true there are some boats plying between Bridgeport and here, but it is a great ways between, so far that all stores have to be brought from the landing, which is five miles distant, to us in wagons. The rebels command the river between here and there, and they are very conspicuous, too, with their big guns.

On Friday, our brigade witnessed the execution of two deserters. One, Erastus C. Daley, private, 88<sup>th</sup> Illinois, & Benjamin Valentine, private 44<sup>th</sup> Illinois. Had some of our deserters in Illinois witnessed it, methinks they would have trembled in their government clogs.

The rebels steadily advance their lines in our front.

Horace Chittenden and N. B. Sherwood are with us once more, looking well. A great deal was said in Murfreesboro about the amputating of Horace's arm, but he has it yet, and is able to grasp a sword to command Co. H. I am certain that straps cannot be placed on any one in the company where they will be farther from the dust than on his shoulders, where I hope soon to see them.

I am as ever, Sinbad

*WS, 12-9-1863*

#### FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Camp Lytle,  
Chattanooga, Nov. 22, 1863

EDITOR SENTINEL:

At this time I have no news of importance to communicate. The health of Company H is very good. John P. Floyd and C. M. C. Kimplin are with us again. The regiment has been paid off once more, and the boys are now all flush with greenbacks, but unfortunately Chattanooga contains nothing in which to invest, so I suppose considerable money will be sent home, which I have no doubt, owing to the high price of butter, will be very acceptable. Rev. Wm. H. Haigh, Chaplain 36<sup>th</sup>, was detailed to take funds north, and pay Woodstock a visit. Should he do so, I hope he will receive a cordial welcome, for he is a consistent Christian, a firm supporter of the Administration, and a minister truly devoted to the spiritual interests of the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment Illinois Infantry.

Yesterday morning, I looked for some stirring events. Our brigade was

ordered to have two day's cooked rations in haversack, and leaving a small guard in camp, be ready for a move. We were all ready, but did not move. I anticipated an attempt being made to capture that little rise of ground that looms up in the distance called Lookout Mountain. Maj. Gens. Thomas and Hooker and their staffs were riding around the lines. Gens. Hunter and Sheridan were on the alert and I thought Gen. Sherman was intending to make a feint on the left, while the Mountain was taken by assault on the right. Of what the Generals intended doing we are, of course, in blissful ignorance.

You may hear from me again.

As ever yours, &c., Sinbad

**While camped in Chattanooga The Regiment participated in the Ringold  
Campaign, November 23-27  
Orchard Knob, November 23-24**

Grant planned to drive Bragg Off Lookout Mountain and then have Sherman and his Army of the Tennessee take the end of Missionary Ridge at Tunnel Hill on Bragg's right. The center of the ridge was thought too strong to be carried by an assault. The Army of the Cumberland, including the 36<sup>th</sup>, would merely make a demonstration there to distract the enemy.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the regiment occupied a hill just south of Orchard Knob, where the men had a fine view of the unfolding panorama. On the 24<sup>th</sup> Hooker took Lookout Mountain.

**Missionary Ridge, November 25**

The Army of the Cumberland moved forward to clear the rifle pits at the base of Missionary Ridge while Sherman moved against the enemy right. Sherman's

attack against Tunnel Hill stalled, whereas the Army of the Cumberland had no difficulty clearing the rifle pits. It was then that one of the most dramatic episodes of the war transpired.

Anxious to redeem its reputation after Chickamauga, the entire Army of the Cumberland, without orders from Grant or Thomas, suddenly decided as a man to go up the center of Missionary Ridge, where the enemy's defenses were supposedly impregnable, and lift the siege of Chattanooga in a single dash up the hill.

General Sheridan rushed his division forward, toasting the Confederate gunners on top of the ridge with whiskey from his canteen. Thomas and Grant watched in dumb struck wonder from Orchard Knob as the blue regiments surged upward, a series of inverted V shaped formations, each unit fanning out behind its flag like a flock of geese following its leader.

Colonel Miller trotted about on horseback. Striking a slacker with the flat of his sword, he shouted out in Latin, "Excelsior" ("Go higher")! Private Walter Reeder of Aurora lay mortally wounded on the slope, waving his bloody handkerchief like a banner to encourage the rest of the regiment. The 36<sup>th</sup> was among the first to reach the top.

### **Pursuit to Graysville, November 26-27**

*AB, 12-10-1863*

#### **THE 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT.**

The following extract from a private letter written to a friend in the city, from a member of the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment, will be read with interest. Though written before the late fight, the Chaplain of the regiment referred to below has been home, and is now on his way back with a box of socks, mittens, etc., contributed by the friends of the regiment in Elgin, Aurora and Bristol. We also append a list of the killed and wounded during the recent fight

"The 13<sup>th</sup> and 127<sup>th</sup> are within a few miles of us, and I am told that the 52<sup>nd</sup> is also. If this is true, I suppose the 7<sup>th</sup> isn't far off. I believe I told you before that company B, cavalry is escort for Gen. Hooker. Frank Reynolds is a military conductor on the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad. Charley Hoyt is here with

Capt. Leach, Post Commissary, and is “allowed” to know his business a little better than any other business man in the vicinity. *Bill Clark has resigned, though his papers have not yet got around.* The Chaplain left for home on Thursday, taking nearly \$17,000 from the regiment. This is pretty well, I think, as we draw rations for but 280 men. We are picking up every day. The wounded of Stone’s River, and those who have been sick during the summer are returning continually, so that in one month we shall have as many men for duty as we had at the battle of Chickamauga. Eight came up yesterday. It takes some time to recover from the depressing effect and influence of a battle, but good cheer and mirth is again adding relish to the slim rations in the 36<sup>th</sup>. Our library of 300 volumes is again with us; we have the magazines – Harper, Atlantic, and Continental; one copy of each for each company, one for hospital and one for headquarters. Also the Weekly N. Y. Evening Post and these publications always reach us a day or two before the date of issue. Add to these what dailies we can buy, and we have all the reading matter we have leisure to attend to.”

#### LIST OF CASUALTIES IN THE REGIMENT FROM THE RECENT BATTLE

Comp. A – Lieut. Leroy, Galesburg, wounded in leg.

Comp. T – Thomas S. Bowen, wounded in arm and amputated; Lewis Olsen, in face; Edward Strait, arm.

Comp. D – Lieut. S. M. Abbott, killed; Sergt. C. H. Thompson, wounded in wrist; W. C. Knox, in heel.

Comp. I – George Beck, in hand; Christ Mall, in head; Wm. Freeze, in leg.

Comp. C – Serg’t. J. A. Pierce, killed; L. M. Pike, killed; Sergt. J. W. McCoy, wounded in shoulder; Sam. Paxton, in foot; Warren Kinzie, arm; Ezra E. Manson, thigh; W. V. Reeder, in hip; E. Sholts, leg broken.

Comp. H – Benj. Allen, in foot; L. Stanton, in foot; S. Gates, in head.

Comp. E – Ed. Teller, left arm amputated, wounded six times; J. E. Moss, left leg broken; L. Shaffer, in left arm; G. M. Baker, in nose.

Comp. K – James Severance, in hand.

Comp. G – All right.

Comp. B – Christian Zimmer, in nose.

Forty second regiment, Capt. Swain’s company – none killed, Sergt. Hitchcock, arm slight; private Stevens, thigh slight; H. Shoemaker in leg.

Eighty ninth regiment, Capt. Kidder’s Comp., Frank Myers, wounded in leg; private Browning, slight wound. Total in killed and wounded in regiment, 37.

WS, 12-16-1863

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Chattanooga, Nov. 26, 1863

EDITOR SENTINEL:

It is my good fortune to chronicle another severe but glorious battle. After three days, we have fought and defeated the Confederates under Gen. Bragg. Some prominent points on our left were taken on the first day. Lookout Mountain on the second, and Missionary Ridge entire on the 25<sup>th</sup> of Nov. At a signal of six Generals, the Army of the Cumberland charged upon the heights of Missionary Ridge. It was a great distance to the foot of the Mountain, and over half a mile to the top; very steep and almost impassable for pedestrians. Our Brigade moved in three lines beside the skirmishers. We passed over two lines of breastworks, closely filled with Southern Chivalry. On the summit was Breckenridge's entire corps, estimated by the rebels at forty thousand. Our boys bravely scaled the heights, capturing many thousand prisoners and about forty pieces of artillery. Our loss is very slight. Lieut. Abbot, Co. D, killed, and Lieut. Salisbury Co. A, wounded severely. 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois, no one killed, in Co. H, Benjamin Allen, Stephen Gates and Lawrence Stanton, wounded. Our boys are in excellent spirits, very jubilant over the victory achieved, for it was no drawn battle. We are ordered to be ready to move again in the morning. We surmise our destination to be Knoxville. All are tired, myself among the number, having been up for four nights. When I feel better, I will write more.

The rebels laid in their trenches and fired until we were upon them, and then gave up, and came into our lines. Our Brigade took three Colonels, and one Brigade Commander, and many other officers. After we started up the hill, Bragg was there, and told them it was all right, but he managed to make himself scarce last night. I slept in his quarters for about one hour, when we moved on to Chickamauga, taking many prisoners and some artillery. I now ride one of Bragg's fast horses.

Yours truly, Sinbad.

**March to the relief of Knoxville, November 28 thru December 8, 1863**

Longstreet had moved against the Yankee garrison holding Knoxville, and the siege of Chattanooga was barely over before the 36<sup>th</sup> found itself marching in a

dreary downpour to the relief of that other beleaguered city.

After the heroics of Chattanooga, Knoxville turned out to be a miserable farce. By the time the 36<sup>th</sup> arrived with the rest of Sheridan's division, the siege had already been lifted. But the regiment had left in such a hurry that the men had no time to take adequate provisions for the cold and rainy winter ahead. Still in their summer uniforms, they were forced to encamp near Blaine's Cross Roads, 18 miles from Knoxville. "While in bivouac their only shelter was the ponchos with which they had been provided before leaving Chattanooga; there was not a tent in the command," Sheridan later wrote.

### **Operations in East Tennessee until January, 1864**

*GCH, 12-16-1863*

THE 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT. – The old 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment has gone to Knoxville, Tenn, as we learn through private sources. It was at Harrison, Tenn. on the 30<sup>th</sup> of last month, and long ere this must have reached its destination. When this gallant old regiment shall have made a few more marches, it will have gone the grand round from north to south, from east to west. Wherever hard fighting and true courage are wanted, there the old 36<sup>th</sup> is ordered.

*GCH, 12-16-1863*

KILLED. – Among the number of killed and wounded at the battle of Chattanooga was Lieut. Abbot, Co. D, 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment. He was the only one killed in the regiment. There were 24 wounded.

*GCH, 12-23-1863*

PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE SIXTH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

Joliet, Dec. 22, 1863.

FRIEND SOUTHARD. – Say in your paper that the time for claiming exemptions, is extended to the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 1864.

Persons claiming exemption must appear in person. Affidavits sent by mail will receive no attention.

Very Respectfully,  
Abel Longworth  
Provost Marshall

1864

### **The Regiment was Veteranized on January 1, 1864**

In the midst of the misery of the Knoxville campaign, the three year term of enlistment for the regiment expired. But, despite their hardships, nearly every able bodied man left in the 36<sup>th</sup> chose to reenlist. The men even held a contest with the nearby 44<sup>th</sup> Illinois to see who could get the most men to sign up for yet another three years. The prize was six weeks furlough. The 36<sup>th</sup> won, and was shipped back from the freezing squalor of Blaine's Cross Roads to the overflowing hospitality of a series of balls, banquets, and parades held in its honor up and down the Fox River Valley.

*WS, 1-27-1864*

### **THE OLD 36<sup>th</sup> RE-ENLISTED AND COMING HOME**

20 Miles from Knoxville, Tenn.

Jan. 2d, 1864

**EDITOR SENTINEL:**

Yesterday we received a mail, and in it a Sentinel. I will not write much, for we will soon be with you. We are coming home to recruit; will start soon. Christmas and New Year's passed without any stir whatever. We are almost

frozen entirely, being here without tents or rations. We left Chattanooga on the 28<sup>th</sup> of Nov., on a very severe campaign. We foraged a great many rations, but Gen. Foster confiscated them, and only gave us a small proportion. I expect he has seized our mail, so his army could be supplied. Mean, isn't it. My fingers are frozen, and I will write no more. Prepare for a raid by the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois Veteran Volunteers.

Sinbad.

### **The Veterans went on Furlough until March, 1864**

*EG, 1-20-1864*

#### **OUR REGIMENTS.**

We have the proud satisfaction of recording the fact that nearly all of the old regiments recruited in this vicinity have re-enlisted.

The 7<sup>th</sup> is at Springfield, where it was first organized under Col. Cook of that city. It received a splendid reception after which our company, first commanded by Captain, now Col. Joslyn, then by the brave and lamented Capt. Ward, will be, here on a furlough. Although numbered 7<sup>th</sup> out of regard to the six regiments raised by Illinois in the Mexican war, it is the first Illinois regiment of this war. Some of the men were in the three month's service, and then for three years, and now for the war. Although long absent, they are not forgotten; a cordial welcome awaits them.

The dear old 36<sup>th</sup> are still in the field. The gallant young Major Sherman is here on recruiting service, and it is understood that nearly all the men have re-enlisted. As soon as the exigencies of the service will permit they will spend at least thirty days at home. The history of this regiment is recorded in the memory and hearts of our readers. They have been unfortunate in two great battles and lost terribly by the bad management of the Division with which they were connected. They came very near being annihilated in the first battle, that of Pea Ridge, but were saved by the timely intervention of General Osterhaus, who reversed an

unfortunate order just in time to save them from an ambush.

At Stone River they were in a division that was routed with such awful slaughter on the first day of the battle. At Chickamauga they were rushed into the battle on the double quick, and into a position where they were flanked instantly and two or three companies well nigh annihilated, the rest saving themselves by going out faster than they went in, but at all times and in all places the rank and file have obeyed orders without flinching a hair. No matter what impossibilities they were called upon to undertake, they have answered in the heroic language of Col. Miller of the war of 1812, "We will try sir." Battered and bruised, but invincible, they are coming back to us

They *are coming*—but the veterans of the 52<sup>nd</sup> are here. Noble Men! Welcome thrice welcome. No words can express what we feel when we take the hand of officers and privates. We knew you well. Your heroic deeds we have recounted till they are familiar as household words. We watched you in your rapid journeys during the first few months of active service, when you acquired the title of "the flying regiment."

We remember your desperate but unavailing valor in the first terrible day at Shiloh. We dislike to recall the wretched mismanagement that cost us so many valuable lives on that day, but for that, you were not responsible. The proud sons of Louisiana attested to your valor and accorded to you the seed of victory.

At Corinth, at Iuka, and through all the region surrounding, your fame is proudly published.

We of Elgin have a special reason to be proud of the position attained by the veteran 52<sup>nd</sup>. Of the field officers, Elgin furnishes the Colonel commanding, the Adjutant, the Surgeon, Chaplain and Quartermaster, two Captains and a number of other commissioned officers who call this home.

In addition to the fame achieved by the infantry, the cavalry companies attached to the 36<sup>th</sup> and the 52<sup>nd</sup> have reflected the highest honor upon this and neighboring towns.

We hope ere long to see Co. B, Plato Cavalry and Captain, now Colonel Gilbert's old Cavalry Company in our midst.

But while rejoicing and feasting with our noble friends we must not forget that their work is not done. They are here to recruit. They want their ranks filled again with strong fresh men. They must give the enemy one more push, and then they sweep to the Gulf.

At another time we must speak of the 58<sup>th</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and other old regiments, and of the 105<sup>th</sup>, 127<sup>th</sup> and other newer regiments, where this town and country are represented.

*EG, 1-20-1864*

### WOOD FOR THE SOLDIERS' FAMILIES

The lady managers of the Soldiers Aid Society desire us to say to the farmers and wood owners, that they are very much in need of some more wood for the needy families of the soldiers. The late severely cold weather has been very hard on them, and many families are out of wood who thought they had enough to last all winter. Those dealing in wood could well afford to be generous, for they have lately been reaping a rich harvest. They have found ready sale, high prices, and cash down, and they can certainly now *give* some to the soldiers' families.

Those bringing in wood for this object will report to Henry Sherman, who will attend to its proper distribution. Don't delay this matter, but bring your wood immediately, for these families must be provided.

*GCH, 1-20-1864*

36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT. – The old 36<sup>th</sup> regiment is on its way home. The boys have reenlisted, and the regiment is coming back to recruit. The members of this veteran regiment have fought nobly and bravely, and they will receive a hearty welcome home. Brave boys are they.

*EG, 1-27-1864*

### THE DRUMMER BOY.

Charley Stiles in 1861 enlisted in the 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. as a drummer boy and has not been home since. He had been a member of the Congressional Church and Sabbath School in Elgin, where his parents resided. Chaplain Haigh says that Charley always attends the weekly regimental prayer meeting. Dear boy, he wishes to keep himself up in the manual of the spiritual warfare. Nor does he forget to honor the Lord with his earnings. Several times he has sent home sums of money to pay his proportion of expenses in the Church and Sabbath School. On last payday he sent to his father and directed him to pay \$2.00 to the church, \$2.00 to the Sabbath School, and \$1.00 to the Home Missionary Society. He does not forget the soldiers of Jesus on the frontier who have enlisted, not for three years

but for life.

Noble boy ! May God defend him against the assaults of rebels and Satan. –  
*Christ. Era.*

*GCH, 1-27-1864*

It is the intention, we believe, of the friends of Company G, 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, to give the boys a hearty welcome, on their return to their homes. It is proposed to give them a public dinner at Streeter's Hall, and to otherwise show them marked consideration. This is both eminently fitting and proper, and we hope the boys will receive such a greeting as will convince them that their noble service to the country in its most imperiled moments has enshrined their sacrifices and heroic deeds in the memory of all loyal citizens. The old 36<sup>th</sup> has done her duty nobly and gallantly, and the boys are deserving of all the marks of approbation possible to bestow upon them. Let us then extend them a generous greeting; and not only them, but every veteran volunteer, who has bared his breast to rebel lead and stemmed the tide of battle.

It is not yet definitely known when the regiment will return. It may be in a short time and it may be in two or three weeks.

P.S. – Since the above was put in type we have received the particulars of the arrangements. The dinner will take place at Streeter's Hall. Invitations are extended to all soldiers who have served in the 36<sup>th</sup> to be present, free of charge. Fathers, mothers, wives, brothers and sisters of members of the 36<sup>th</sup>, are invited to take seats with the soldiers. The public are invited. Tickets 50 cents each, to be had of the communities of arrangements. The proceeds of the dinner after defraying expenses, to be donated to the Soldier's Aid and Poor Relief Society of this city.

*EG, 1-27-1864*

THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

The glorious old 36<sup>th</sup> is expected to arrive in Chicago, on Friday of this week, and will probably go to Aurora, where it will go into camp. The Elgin

company will come home for a few days, and may be expected here on Monday or Tuesday. The difficulty of getting transportation may possibly delay them, but unless it does so, they will be here then. Let Elgin give them a glorious reception. They deserve it and it will be given.

*EG, 1-27-1864*

### FARMERS !

A deputation from the Committee to get up the Banquet to the returned Veterans, will call on you early in the week, for Turkeys, Chickens, Ducks, Pigs, Vegetables, and other good things, to grace the *Grand Banquet* to be given to our *Returned Heroes*. Many of them are your own sons and brothers, and the Committee ask you to give of your fruits and flocks to this noble object, and what you can't give, they will buy. Let there be a sublime rivalry in generosity.

*GCH, 2-10-1864*

### RETURNED VETERANS

Companies D and G of the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, arrived at home on furlough on Friday noon last. Their unexpected arrival precluded the possibility of giving the boys such a reception as was intended, the telegraph anticipating their arrival only two hours. Every exertion was made to spread the tidings of their coming, and hasty preparation made to properly receive them. If the arrangements were not complete, and the reception not as imposing as might have been desired, it is attributable to the lack of time to complete the plans. It was no lack of desire to show these veterans that consideration they so intently deserve.

As it was, a procession was formed, headed by Brass and Martial Bands, numbering several hundred, and proceeded to the depot, to receive the boys. On the arrival of the train, the Band struck up a lively National air, and cheer after cheer went up from the crowd. Then came hearty greetings after which the welcome speech by W. T. Hopkins, Esq., was made. The procession was again reformed, and under the marshalship of Messrs. Webber and Armstrong, the boys were escorted down town, where they dined at the Hopkins House.

They should everywhere receive a hearty welcome, and be impressed with the fact that their services are appreciated, and their patriotic sacrifices in defense

of liberty and the good old flag not undervalued.

Pleasing as was the return of these soldiers, who have so nobly braved the fates of war, there was a sadness in the coming, it were useless to deny. As these brave boys, fresh from the battlefields, covered with imperishable honor for noble deeds of valor, come among us, with thinned ranks and short muster rolls, the thought reverts to the time of their departure, with unbroken columns and not a comrade missing. How many of their original number now sleep in southern soil? How many suffer in rebel prisons, or languish painfully in hospitals? These are questions saddening in their answer, which well up in the heart and cast their darkening shadow over the mind, when we would cheerfully bid these noble boys a welcome. Glad are we to welcome the living, and take them by the hand. Peace to the memory of those so bravely fallen. God bless the noble fellows who have braved so much, and again, after a brief furlough, return to the field of strife. May their stay in our midst be pleasant and their enjoyment complete; and "when this cruel war is over," may they all return, to enjoy the blessings of that peace our free institutions vouchsafe, and they have battled to perpetuate.

Tomorrow, at 1 o'clock, a dinner is to be given at Streeter's Hall, and the welcome address will be delivered by B. Olin, Esq. Ample preparation has been made to dine all who wish to meet with the boys. Tickets 50 cents.

The 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois was raised at Aurora, and entered the service in September, 1861 with 1,092 men. Company G. of this regiment was raised in this city, and Company D and I at Lisbon. Breaking camp on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September, it proceeded to Quincy and thence to St. Louis, where it remained a day or two. It marched thence to Rolla, Mo., where it lay encamped until the 14<sup>th</sup> of January, 1862, when it took up arms and pursued Price as far as Springfield. From here it marched to Keitsville, and shortly afterwards engaged the rebels under Price at Pea Ridge, in which fight they were badly beaten by our forces. Again the regiment received marching orders, and proceeded to Forsyth, thence to Salem, Ark., from here it moved across the Big and Little Black Rivers to Cape Girardeau, thence to Columbus. At the battle of Corinth, the regiment was drawn up in battle array, but did not participate in that engagement. After this fight it marched to Rienzi, Miss., where it remained some time, when it was ordered to Hamburg Landing, where it started en route for Cincinnati. The next move was to Louisville, where the regiment was assigned to General Buell's command, and under him pursued Bragg as far as Perryville, where it engaged with the enemy and lost some ten men, and thence to Crab Orchard. From here it moved to Nashville, near which it lay encamped for nearly three months. It again pursued the rebels as far as Murfreesboro, where it participated in the memorable fight in which the rebels were so badly defeated. The line of march was again taken up and the regiment marched to Tullahoma, thence to Bridgeport, and shortly after engaged in both

battles at Chattanooga.

*WS, 2-10-1864*

### HONOR THE RETURNING BRAVES

There will be a meeting at the Court House in Woodstock, on Friday evening, the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. for the purpose of welcoming home the veterans of the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry and the Eighth Illinois Cavalry, now in our midst. Speeches may be expected from all the resigned and returned officers of these and the various other regiments composed in part of citizens of McHenry County.

At the close of the meeting there will be a grand party at Phoenix Hall, to which all are invited. The hall will be decorated with the battle worn and tattered colors of these regiments, all covered with the glories of Pea Ridge, of Perryville, of Stone River, of Chickamauga, and of Chattanooga.

For the sake of the loved and lamented dead, let us honor their heroic and living comrades. They have preserved our nation from disintegration and destruction – they have shown their devotion to their government on many bloody fields – they have pledged themselves to go forth again, and endure and brave yet more for their country – for us, its citizens. Let us twine laurel wreaths round their brows, and let them return to their posts nerved anew by the cordial welcome they received from their friends at home.

FOR THE RETURNED VETERANS. – Military Ball, by the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry and the Eighth Cavalry Illinois Regiments, at Phoenix Hall, in Woodstock, Friday evening, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1864, with a reception at the Court House, at 6 ½ p.m.

### HONORARY MANAGERS

Col. E. S. Joslyn, 36 <sup>th</sup>	Col. Silas Miller, 36 <sup>th</sup>
Maj. A. H. Barry, 36 <sup>th</sup>	Col. L. S. Church, 95 <sup>th</sup>
Capt. A. B. Coon, Pr M.	Maj. G. D. Sherman, 36 <sup>th</sup>
Capt. Jas. Nish, 95 <sup>th</sup>	Capt. F. W. Smith, 15 <sup>th</sup>
Do A. S. Stewart, 95 <sup>th</sup>	do F. D. Patterson, do
Lt. F. Russell, 8 <sup>th</sup>	do E. D. Doud, 8 <sup>th</sup>
Lt. C. F. Dike, 36 <sup>th</sup>	Capt. L. D. Keller, 17 <sup>th</sup>
Ser. H. Chittenden, 36 <sup>th</sup>	Lt. Frank Thwing, 36 <sup>th</sup>

Ser. O. Hutchinson, 95<sup>th</sup>                      Lt. M. Briggs, 36<sup>th</sup>  
Ser. N. B. Sherwood, 36<sup>th</sup>                Ser. J. C. Delany, 8<sup>th</sup>  
Sergeant J. C. Wolfe, 36<sup>th</sup>.

FLOOR MANAGERS:

Capt. M. L. Joslyn, 36<sup>th</sup>                      Ser. H. H. Hayden, 36<sup>th</sup>  
Ord. M. D. Kent, 36<sup>th</sup>                        Ser. Earl D. Thomas, 8<sup>th</sup>.

Supper at the Woodstock House, Tickets \$2.00

*GCH, 2-17-1864*

DINNER TO THE 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT

Companies D., G., and I., having been recruited in the counties of Grundy and Kendall arrived in Morris on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst., on their way home to spend their thirty days furlough.

In our last issue mention was made of the reception of these brave boys at the depot, by our citizens; and, also, that it was proposed to extend to them a more formal and substantial welcome in the way of a public dinner, to be given them and any others of the regiment who could be present on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. In pursuance of the programme agreed upon by the committee of arrangements, the dinner came off on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and was altogether a fine affair.

Long before the hour for dinner had arrived, the streets were thronged with people who had come in to join the boys of the 36<sup>th</sup>. Streeter's Hall, although arranged to accommodate fully 300, at once, not having capacity sufficient to hold at one time, more than a third of those who had come to participate, those in the hall, after eating, would pass out to give room for their neighbors without doors.

The Rev. Mr. Frame presided at the tables, and the Morris Band contributed very much by their national airs, to enliven the entertainment.

Several old soldiers and officers who had formerly been members of the 36<sup>th</sup>, were present to join the reunion afforded by -----; and a considerable number of those who had seen service in other regiments were also present.

Dinner over, a patriotic prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Bailey, immediately after which Mr. B. Olin Esq., was introduced by Judge Hopkins, and proceeded to deliver the welcome address, to which Col. Miller, amid cheers, responded in a happy manner. Maj. Sherman, Capt. Camp, and W. T. Hopkins were successively called out and responded in patriotic and eloquent remarks.

Very much is due to the ladies, through whose untiring efforts the tables were loaded with bountiful supplies and the entertainment made a most decided success. The committee of arrangements, over and above all expenditures, had about \$120 to hand over to the Soldier's Aid, for the benefit of Soldier's families.

The enjoyments of the day were concluded by a rousing party at the Hall, in the evening. Some of the citizens having succeeded in buying out the right and title of the "Wandering Minstrels," who had previously engaged the Hall, for an evening's exhibition and sent them "wandering" in quest of some neighboring town; many of the boys of the 36<sup>th</sup>, joined in the dance and gaily whiled the social hours. \$35 were cleared at this party, a sum which has also been handed over to the relief of Soldier's families.

On the whole, the boys and their many friends present, enjoyed themselves well. The occasion will not soon be forgotten by these veterans, who feel that they have a large place, as they most certainly have and deserve, in the affections of the people.

*GCH, 2-17-1864*

RECRUITING. – Capt. Linus J. Austin, of the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, has been ordered to open a recruiting office in this city. Here is the excellent opportunity for those who desire to enter the service, to go into one of the most honorable veteran regiments of the State. We hope to see Capt. Austin meet with such success as shall enable him to fill up Co. G, before the regiment shall return to the field. To this end, we hope that a bounty may be given to the recruits and not only to them but the present members of the Company, who went forth without hesitancy, but who so justly are entitled to it. We are back on all calls, about 75 men, and these should be raised, so that we may have a clean record on the 1<sup>st</sup> of next month.

*GCH, 2-24-1864*

HO ! FOR THE 36<sup>th</sup>. – Capt. Linus J. Austin has opened a recruiting office, with Capt. Armstrong, at the headquarters one door west of Baum & Gump's Saloon. The old 36<sup>th</sup> has a name and prestige, enjoyed by few Regiments in the service, and

we hope to see Capt. Austin meet with such success as shall enable him to go back to the front with a full company. Our people should have sufficient pride, to use every exertion to fill up Company G. It would be dishonor to us, to let the company return to the battlefield with unrecruited ranks. What say our people?

*EG, 2-24-1864*

#### PRESENTATION OF A SWORD TO MAJ. GEO. D. SHERMAN

On Tuesday evening of this week, one of those exquisitely affecting and heart swelling scenes that occur but once or twice in a man's lifetime, when the happiness of the years is compressed into an hour, took place at the house of J. R. McLean, Esq., one mile west of Elgin. The affair was beautiful in conception, and happy in execution. It was the presentation of an elegant Sword to Major George D. Sherman, by the farmers of the neighborhood where he was raised, and for long called *Home*.

A number of the farmers up in the old McLean neighborhood, who had known George from his earliest childhood, had watched with interest his growth, and had witnessed with proud satisfaction his noble, manly, but modest bearing, and the high honor and shining glory he had already so nobly won in the service of his country, conceived the idea of making to him some testimonial of their esteem for his manly worth, and admiration of his noble deeds. Accordingly they procured a beautiful sword, of the finest steel, with a solid steel scabbard, the whole elegantly finished and mounted. Tuesday evening was the time selected, when the Donors, with their families and friends, to the number of over fifty, assembled at the house of J. R. McLean, to witness the presentation. C. H. Larkin presented the sword to him in a few feeling and appropriate remarks, saying that it came from the old friends and neighbors, who had known him long and well, who knew his worth and felt proud of the bravery he had shown at Pea Ridge, Stone River, Chickamauga, and the crowning glory, the storming of Mission Ridge, in defense of their country and homes, and that glorious old flag we all love so well. Major Sherman replied in very few words thanking those who thus honored him. But his heart was too full for utterance. He could only say that he would use the costly gift in that way that should best attest his thanks to the givers. A part of the company then sang Geo. F. Root's immortal song, "The Battle Cry of Freedom."

After the presentation, the whole company sat down, or rather stood up, to the splendid supper, prepared by Mrs. McLean and her neighbors, to which the party did ample and complete justice. The supper was followed by a couple of

hours of agreeable conversation and social enjoyment.

Altogether, the presentation was one of those quiet unpretending occasions, devoid of all ostentation or vulgar show, but which go straight to the hearts of the participants, because spontaneous and heartfelt. The father and mother and sisters of Major Sherman have just reason to feel an honest pride in a son and brother who wears the honors so nobly earned with such true dignity; for, were he Major General, instead of Major, he would still be plain George Sherman.

The sword, without belt, or sash, or hangings, and without the inscription, cost \$65. and was the gift, exclusively of the farmers of the neighborhood where he was raised. The following is to be inscribed on the hilt:

“Presented to  
Major George D. Sherman,  
36<sup>th</sup> Regt., Ill., Vol. Infantry,  
By  
His Rural Friends.”

Major Sherman entered the service in the 36<sup>th</sup>, at its organization two years and a half ago, as Orderly Sergeant.

*EG, 3-2-1864*

#### REPORT OF THE CHAPLAIN OF THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

We are permitted to make the following extracts from the report of the Chaplain of the 36<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Wm. M. Haigh, made to Adjutant Gen. Fuller. It will be seen from the facts and statistics presented, that Mr. Haigh has most faithfully performed his duty to the regiment. We know him personally, and that he is a most excellent, noble man, and a true Christian. Would that all the Chaplains in the army were like Mr. Haigh. He and his gentle hearted wife, make everything sunshiny wherever they go. We don't wonder the regiment think everything of them.

The military record of the 36<sup>th</sup>, has passed into history. Pea Ridge, Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga and Mission Ridge, will rescue its name from oblivion.

The facts here presented, though less brilliant and conspicuous than military achievements, are not less honorable to the organization, and indicate not obscurely the foundation on which its military character is based. It is in the previous training and habits of our volunteer soldiery that we find the secrete

springs of that patient fortitude and gallant bearing, which have enabled them, step by step, to close in upon the rebellion, and by which they shall yet hew out for us with their victorious swords, a glorious and lasting peace. I present those facts only, which have come under my own observation. I joined the regiment in the Fall of 1862; its friends in Kane and Kendall Counties, placed in my hands upwards of \$40 for the purchase of reading matter, chiefly of a religious character. Since that time, there has been raised, in the regiment itself, and expended for reading, both secular and religious, \$454. making a total of \$495. The largest expenditure was for our library, a catalogue of which is hereby presented. It speaks for itself, both as to the manner in which it is adapted to the peculiar exigencies of military life, and to the character of the works which were selected. It comprises no small portion of the very best, and purest of our English literature. That the library should consist of such works was the special request of both officers and men.

We also receive weekly, 20 copies of the N. Y. Evening Post, Christian Times and N. W. Christian Advocate, 12 copies of the four monthlies, Harper's, Atlantic, Continental, and Eclectic. These received by mail are peculiarly acceptable to those times, when active field service renders it impracticable to have our library with us. Religious reading has been distributed every Sabbath, when practicable, comprising up to Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1864, 3450 copies of successive numbers of the Christian Banner, Tract Journal, American Messenger, 150 copies Christian Press, 2000 tracts, 300 soldiers books, 7 soldiers libraries, 750 hymn books, testaments, English and German, and a large quantity of miscellaneous books and papers, English, German and Norwegian. Up to the same period, although the last six months were arduous campaigns, and peculiarly unfavorable, there was held in the regiment, 57 public services, 57 bible classes, and 104 meetings for prayer and religious conference.

In July last, while camped at Cowan, Tenn., the heat being too intense for outdoor services, the design was conceived of erecting a Tabernacle of Cedars. The work was superintended by Lieut O. Smith, Co. E, who was the first to fall on the bloody field of Chickamauga. The general interest manifested by officers and men, was very gratifying, the greatest portion of the labor being entirely voluntary. The result was a structure, which in beauty and convenience, surpassed the expectations even of those who erected it. It was dedicated with appropriate exercises July 26<sup>th</sup>, and the glad, yet solemn interest in the occasion, will never be forgotten by those who attended. Captain Mister, Topographical Engineer on Bragg's staff, who had recently come into our lines, was employed to make drawings, from which the accompanying lithographs were taken. One thousand have been purchased by the Regiment.

These facts suggest the elevated character of the communities who sent these

men into the field, and taken in connection with their military bearing and achievements, confirm the truth which cannot be too deeply impressed upon the national mind, that intelligence united with morality and education, founded upon true religion, are the real conservators of the republic, and as long as these conditions shall exist, our country will never lack for defenders of her territory, her institution, and her life.”

*GCH, 3-9-1864*

### LISBON SOLDIERS' FESTIVAL

Lisbon, March 2d, 1864

*Mr. Editor,* I have been requested to make a report of the proceedings of the reception given to the gallant and brave boys of the old 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. It proved a perfect success. The day was pleasant. The “boys” and “old folks” in splendid spirits, and last though not least, the “good things” seemed to have no end. The four tables, over thirty feet each, in length, was spread in the school room, and after filling these tables four times, there still remained boxes, baskets, and “piles innumerable” of provisions, which were untouched. After dinner the people assembled at the church and listened to some patriotic speeches from the Chaplain and Lt. Col. of the regiment, which were enthusiastically received.

The net cash proceeds of the dinner after paying all the expenses, were \$180 which amount is to be given to the wounded soldiers in Co. D, and to needy families of soldiers in our midst.

We have also sent to the soldier's home in Chicago, after distributing to many families of soldiers, a liberal supply of pies, cakes, butter and biscuit, the following; Three boxes biscuit, bread and cake, 30 lbs. One box butter, 30 lbs. One bbl. chickens. One bbl. of hams, 220 lbs, which are worth at least \$30, making the whole amount received, \$210.

And the best of it all is, it is a free gift, from the generous hearted people of Lisbon and vicinity.

And now, friend Southard, in behalf of the good ladies of our village, I present you a small token of their kindly feelings to you and yours.

Respectfully M.

*AB, 3-10-1864*

## THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

The greater portion of the regiment answered to their names at Brady's Hall on Monday. A considerable number were then given short furloughs for the purpose of obtaining their Co. bounties. The regiment, in force, will probably be assembled today.

Col. Miller informs us that there have been over one hundred new recruits already reported, and some agents not yet in.

The noble old regiment will go to the front full 400 strong. It is more than probable that before another issue of the *Beacon*, the regiment will be far on its way to the front, although no definitive orders for movement have yet been received.

Headquarters are in Brady's Hall – officers' room at the head of the second flight of stairs.

*GCH, 3-16-1864*

36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT. – This regiment is still at Aurora. The boys do not speak very highly of the accommodations prepared for them, but they do not grumble, as they expect to be off for Dixie soon.

*SDD, 3-16-1864*

### WAR CLAIM OFFICE

---

JAMES COLEMAN,  
WAR CLAIM      PENSION      BACK PAY  
BOUNTY MONEY AND GENERAL

MILITARY COLLECTING AGENT  
OFFICE OVER SHERMAN'S STORE  
MAIN STREET

*SDD, 3-16-1864*

THE 36<sup>th</sup>

The greater portion of this regiment answered to their names in Brady's Hall on Monday. A considerable number were then given short furloughs for the purpose of obtaining their Co. bounties. The regiment, in force, will probably be assembled to-day.

Col. Miller informs us that there have been over one hundred new recruits already reported, and some agents not yet in.

The noble old regiment will go to the front full 450 strong. It is more than probable that before another issue of the *Beacon*, the regiment will be far on its way to the front, although no definite orders for movement have yet been received.

Head Quarters in Brady's Hall, officer's room at the head of the second flight of stairs.

-----*Aurora Beacon*.

*AB, 3-17-1864*

MERITED PROMOTION

Mark Flower, a nephew of Wm. H. Hawkins of this city, was a member of Company C of the old seventh regiment when it was organized for the three months service. When the first term of service was over, Mark reenlisted in Company A, cavalry, of the 36<sup>th</sup>. While the company was at Memphis some year and a half ago, Mark was detached and had been acting as head clerk for Brigadier General Veatch at that city. In a late number of the Memphis bulletin, March 16<sup>th</sup>, we find the following;

GENERAL ORDER NO. 8

Headquarters 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Memphis, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

Captain Mark E. Flowers, having been appointed acting Assistant Adjutant General of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of ----- of the district of Memphis is hereby assigned to duty and will be respected and obeyed -----.

By order of Colonel John McDonald

W. Duryan

Assistant Adjutant General

We congratulate Mark upon this assignment of honor.

*SDD, 3-23-1864*

### DEPARTURE OF THE 36<sup>th</sup>

After several deferrings of the time of departure, our old regiment took the cars for Chicago on the morning of Saturday inst, at eight o'clock.

Notwithstanding the bitter coldness of the morning, thousands of friends accompanied the brave old regiment to the train and they went forward, taking kindest wishes and heartiest blessings with them to their battlefields.

The new recruits of the regiment present in the city were mustered in to the number of 9 out of 64 presented, by Lieut. Houghton of the 4<sup>th</sup> U. S. Artillery. The number will probably be increased to 75, before the regiment reaches the front. By these additions the rolls of the regiment will contain the names of 660 men.

*SDD, 3-30-1864*

PLATO AND CAMPTON AID SOCIETY. The soldiers aid society of Plato and Campton will meet on Tuesday evening, April 5<sup>th</sup>, at the residence of Mr. Robert Corran, in Campton. The returned veterans of the Plato Cavalry, will, on that occasion receive an oyster supper from their friends. All soldiers from these two towns are respectfully invited to attend. Soldiers free. Civilians will be charged fifty cents a couple. The welcome address will be delivered by Rev. George Perry, of Campton.

By order of the Committee.

By the spring, enough new recruits had been raised to reconstitute the regiment and, with Silas Miller still at its head, it was ready once again to make war down in Dixie.

*AB, 3-31-1864*

The following sound, practical address was circulated among the members of the 36<sup>th</sup> just before they started from Aurora. It contains words profitable to all.

TO THE OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS OF THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILL. VETERAN  
VOLUNTEERS.

It is the custom of many wise and good men to select, at intervals, some brief sentence of Scripture, which being often called to mind, may serve to warn, to strengthen and direct them.

Allow me, at the commencement of your new term of service, to present to you, as a motto, the words of David to his son Solomon;

“SHOW THYSELF A MAN”

David’s eventful life was drawing to a close. But ere he left his throne on earth for a seat in heaven, he longed to give such counsels to his son as should both insure his personal happiness, and the continued prosperity to his people. Calling Solomon into his presence, he said (1 Kings II. 2); “I go the way of all the earth; be though strong, therefore, and show thyself a man.” All he could wish his son to be; all that in the following verses is expressed in detail, was comprehended in those four brief words. And if ere we move again to the front, we could stand before the venerable patriarch – a; once the greatest Captain, statesman and monarch of the age – to receive from his lips some weighty and pertinent advice, he might with equal propriety say to each and all, “Show thyself a man.”

This we should do in relation to ourselves, our country, and our God.

*Ourselves.* -- Man’s first and chief responsibility is for himself; and no amount of anxiety for others, or zeal for our country, will atone for the neglect of ourselves. Our immortal souls, for which Christ died, must be watched over; the evil corrected, the good cherished. Many a young man has been lured into vice by the insinuating thought, that it is manly to indulge in profanity, intoxication and licentiousness; but in this he is duped by the same deceiver who taught our first parents that though they disobeyed God, “they should not surely die.” To resist vice, not yield to its seductions, is the mark of true manliness. “Greater is he that ruleth his own spirit than he that taketh a city.” Officers and Generals we cannot all be, nor can we write our name conspicuously on the role of those who capture cities and lead us on to victory; but we may all win that greater glory which

attaches to resisting sin and conquering self. In this, then, "Show thyself a man."

*Our Country.* – Our imperiled country called for help. You sprang promptly to her relief. You are now engaged in a special service; one which for the right performance of its duties, requires some of the noblest powers of manhood, whatever position be assigned you. The private, as truly, if not conspicuously, as the highest officer, may show himself a man; for fidelity, courage and patient endurance are required of all. In this special service to which, for a while, you are devoted, "quit yourselves like men." Let that unquestioning obedience to command, so essential to military success, be always given, not grudgingly, not simply for your oath's sake, but cheerfully, like men who have voluntarily sacrificed for a while their personal freedom to the salvation of their country. Let the privations and hardships, inseparable from every campaign, be met with a manly fortitude, knowing that he who calmly endures such trials is as truly a hero as he who boldly stands in the face of the enemy. Nay, the spirit of both is so near akin, that the soldier who proves himself the true man on the march is never found wanting on the battlefield. Carefully, to abstain from those lawless practices to which a military life presents so many temptations, and by which some soldiers and regiments have brought a stain upon their otherwise fair name, which even gallantry in the field has scarce sufficed to remove. Remember you are *citizen-soldiers*, whose highest hopes will not be realized simply in the subjugation of armed forces in rebellion, but who seek to implant in Southern soil those sacred principles of freedom, regulated by law, which, while desolation reigns in the theatre of war, still keep far away homes and abodes of peace and prosperity, and which, "when this cruel war is over," shall grow until they lift their branches over the whole land, and a continent shall safely recline beneath their shade. Let there be nothing, then in your conduct which shall belie this sacred mission, or make those you meet understand your aims.

But this manliness should be chiefly shown.

*Towards God.* – With some it is considered manly to scoff at religion, and boast in unbelief, unmindful of the fact, that the glory and service of God was the chief end of man's creation, and never till he gives himself to the service, making that glory his supreme desire, does he attain full manliness. "The Christian is the highest style of man." The love of God restrains and purifies the love of self; it sanctions and strengthens the love of country, and gives to the character a stability and glory all its own. To be true men, let the counsels of the Savior be heeded; let his precepts be your guide, his blood and righteousness your only refuge. Rest not without an interest in his salvation.

Would you look on one in whom these traits of manhood were seen? Remember him who was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen," while even now each return of his birth day makes a nation glad.

Victorious over self, devoted to his country, consecrated to God, he stands forth an embodiment of true manliness. Called to live in times the counterpart of his, to bear in your degree burdens like his, needing the very qualities which in him shown out so brightly, let his honored memory press upon each the exhortation of the dying warrior and saint – “Show thyself a man.” You are surrounded with the noblest incentives to such a course. The ever brightening prospects of our country’s cause, and the certainty of its speedy and final triumph, call aloud to each defender, “Show thyself a man.”

Our glorious old flag, soiled and battered, but never dishonored, waves to and fro in the breeze, and seems to say to everyone, “Show thyself a man!”

The intense interest felt for you by loving hearts at home, and the earnest prayers ascending ceaselessly in your behalf, come whispering in soft and winning tones, “Show thyself a man!”

The remembrance of the glad welcome which has been extended to you by all the loyal and good, testifying the honest pride they feel in your achievements and devotion to country, and the desire you cherish that it may never be dashed by hearing on your lips or seeing in your lives, the traces of vice, should, like a talisman, preserve you from contagion ever reminding you, “Show thyself a man!”

The reflection that this terrible struggle is intimately connected with the highest interests of humanity and religion, and that our national triumph will result in giving a new impulse among men to everything that is elevating, and good, and holy, urges, lets you come short yourselves of the blessings you are procuring for others and prosperity, “Show thyself a man!”

Finally the sacred graves of our fallen comrades, silently telling of the perilous service in which we are engaged, and that all who now leave home, amid the adieus of friends, shall live to receive their congratulations at our return, should lift our thoughts toward heaven and eternity, while the voice of God urges the exhortation in its fullest sense, “Show thyself a man!”

Your devoted friend and Chaplain

William M. Haige.

Bristol, Ill., March, 1864

*EG, 4-13-1864*

### FLAG PRESENTATION

On Tuesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> inst., the ladies of Campton and Plato united in the presentation of a flag to the Plato Cavalry Company. Though only a portion of the

company are at home, their friends seemed to vie with each other in trying to make their visit agreeable.

Your reporter was so fortunate as to be introduced early in the evening to one of the "committee," by whose kindness he was shown the bountiful tables with their load of luxuries and substantial, before the hungry boys endeavored, but in vain, to exhaust the supply. Though as much room was taken as Mr. Corron's spacious house afforded, the supper tables could only accommodate a small part of the guests at one, and four times the tables were filled to overflowing.

The committee kindly furnished your reporter with various facts not published to the crowd, as for instance, that a magnificent cake on one table was made by Mrs. Lee, and that others were made by Miss. Tucker, Miss. Corron, Miss. McArthur and Miss. Thompson. He was also informed that Mrs. Geb Perry, Mrs. Horace Perry, Mrs. Hadley, Mrs. Sheffner, Mrs. Lemmon, Mrs. Dickinson and Mrs. McConnel were very active in preparing the banquet. Of course where all were so interested, it is unjust to particularize, and no doubt many whose names I was unable to obtain were not a whit behind these in their enthusiasm.

The presentation speech by Mr. James Coleman was brief and elegant, and was generally conceded to be the event of the evening. As he gave them the beautiful banner, and spoke of the necessity of the earnest efforts of all in its support, and for the extinction of the rebellion and the preservation of the Union, his eloquent words met with a hearty response in every heart. Rev. Geo. Perry, on behalf of the soldiers responded in an appropriate and felicitous manner.

At the close of the exercises several beautiful cakes were disposed of for the benefit of the Soldiers Aid Society, one of which, we understand, is to be carried to General Hooker, for whom the company are doing escort duty.

*AB, 4-14-1864*

#### A HORSE TO COL. MILLER.

On the morning of the departure of the 36<sup>th</sup>, Col. Miller was presented, *without his knowledge*, with a fine horse. The following correspondence has since passed between the parties concerned:

Aurora, Illinois.

Col. Silas Miller: -- Dear Sir: The undersigned, your fellow citizens of Aurora, wishing to testify their respect for you as a man and officer, and appreciating your valuable service in our common cause – the suppression of the

existing rebellion – respectfully request you to receive the horse accompanying this, as a slight token of such appreciation. Hoping that said animal may serve you as well as you, in your official capacity, are serving us.

Most respectfully,

O. D. Howell  
E. D. Terry  
Wm. H. Hawkins,  
and many others.

Louisville, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1864.

*O. D. Howell, E. D. Terry, Wm. H. Hawkins and other gentlemen:* I have the honor to acknowledge the delivery into my hands of your favor of the 18<sup>th</sup>, just previous to my departure.

Claiming no particular ability to serve you, unless favored by some fortunate circumstance; claiming no merit except a sincere and earnest desire, so far as I am able, to further the interests of our Government, by the diligent performance of any duty devolving upon me. I accept, with profound gratitude, your encouragement conveyed by your words. I am with much respect,

Your obedient servant,

Silas Miller, Col. 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vol.

WS, 4-6-1864

#### FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Nashville, Tenn., March 23, '64

EDITOR SENTINEL:

Co. H, 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, reported pursuant to orders, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March at Aurora, Illinois, because an immediate march was not ordered, or because for a few days we were not going to be doing fatigue duty. Many of the boys would not remain there. Many of them went back home, others to Chicago, each enjoying himself according to his own ideas.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, we went aboard the cars on C. B. & Q. R. R. – arrived at Chicago at eleven o'clock a.m. We were marched to the soldier's rest, on Michigan Avenue, where a good substantial dinner was served to us by the ladies of Chicago.

Left Chicago about 5 o'clock p.m., on the Michigan Central R. R. After a slow ride of twenty-four hours, with nothing to eat, we arrived at Indianapolis, where we were ordered to go up town and get dinner wherever we could find it.

Veteran Volunteers are not slow in procuring eatables wherever they are to be found. None of the boys would hesitate to walk into a restaurant and order supper, because he had no money. After satisfying our voracious appetites, we started for Jeffersonville, Indiana, where we arrived on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup>. About 6 a.m. we crossed the river into Louisville. We sported around Louisville, as only soldiers can sport, all day, and at night we quartered in an ancient looking castle (not on the Rhine), but on a back street facing the Ohio River. This building, could it only speak, would certainly entertain a company for many long evenings, reciting tragedies and farces that have transpired within its walls since the downfall of Adam. It has been tenanted a great many years, and bears a romantic name, "Uncle Sam's House." I went up to our room about 9 ½ p.m., and found most all of our company slumbering on the floor. I thought all so quiet I sat down on the floor and commenced writing a letter. I had only just commenced, when a large gigantic masculine looking rat accidentally (I suppose) stepped on my foot. I eyed him a moment, and he walked away into another corner. I commenced writing again, when I discovered some more animals of the same species, walking deliberately around the room. I stopped writing and began making observations. All of the boys were fondly embraced in the arms of Morpheus, and snoring loudly, perfectly contented, knowing that they were on the floor, and where they would disturb no one, not even the rats. After watching them until a "fear came o'er me like a spell, and I drove them (the Rats) every one away," then I wrapped myself in my confederate blanket, and sunk down on my virtuous couch, and slumbered sweetly until morning.

We left Louisville about 4 p.m., on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and arrived at this place about daylight this morning. We are now quartered in a large yard at Barrack no. 2, and guarded like conscripts by a detachment of the Invalid Corps. Nearly all the boys propose to attend the theatre this evening. We don't know how we will make out.

Company H has once more been furnished with a commissioned officer, and the recipient of the Captain's commission is Horace Chittenden, one of our own boys from the ranks. I hope and trust the company will take care of him, and not lose him in the first battle. I think we have been careless and lost enough officers.

Nelson B. Sherwood, the next officer in the line of promotion will, I think ere this reaches you, be sporting Lieutenant's bars. It is now sundown. We have sat out here on the ground all day, and had but one meal – this forenoon – consisting of bread and slop. We are promised another tonight. I don't think we live near as well here as we did while in Illinois.

I hope we will not be haunted tonight, with spirits of those half famished rats.

Yours Truly, Sinbad.

*GCH, 4-23-1864*

THE 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT. – This old veteran regiment passed through Chicago, on Saturday last, 500 strong, on its way to the front. They will make the “rebs” howl when they get after them.

*WS, 4-20-1864*

### FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Chattanooga, April 6, 1864

EDITOR SENTINEL:

Once more we are encamped on the ground in side the trenches of Chattanooga, but times have changed since we spread our shelter tents here on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September last, fire wood being scarce here, and plenty on Missionary Ridge. The ridge of bluffs really looks tempting, and Lookout Mountain, which once frowned down upon us, and from the highest peak and every side vomited fiery meteors and solid shot, that came toward our quiet encampments, but generally wasted their fragments on the mountain air, now smiles graciously, as the whistle of the locomotive and steamboat echo from rock to rock, the trees look green, cannons no longer thunder from its summit. It may be this mountain peak, of which so much has been written and said, is like Dan Rice’s mule, rather particular who is maneuvering upon its back.

It may be the rebels, when upon it were nearer to Heaven than they were designed to be, and consequently, felt an animosity toward all the world beside, and showed their malicious disposition by shooting at the comrades of your humble servant. Whatever caused a commotion there, there is one thing certain, and that is, that the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment Veteran Volunteer Infantry, left the city of Nashville, (where I last wrote you,) on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, to march to Chattanooga, 150 miles.

*From Diary.* Left Nashville on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March; marched nine miles on the Murfreesboro Pike. As usual we were blessed with a refreshing shower which lasted from the time we started, until I was relieved as sentinel at 12 o’clock at night.

26<sup>th</sup>. Very pleasant, old Sol was kind enough to look upon us all day. We

marched twelve miles.

27<sup>th</sup>. Pleasant, and marched nine miles. Passed through Murfreesboro. We marched over our old battle ground. All were busy with their reflections; as for myself, when passing so near where sleep so many of our brave companions, I felt that could their departed spirits hold communion with mortals of this sphere, they would say to us – Go On! Finish the work we began. I hope and trust we will not be requested to re-enlist after our present term shall be expired.

28<sup>th</sup>. Very windy all day. Marched fifteen miles on Shelbyville Pike. Commenced raining at sundown, and we were rejoiced at being favored with another refreshing shower, which lasted all night, as usual.

29<sup>th</sup>. Passed through Shelbyville, and camped five miles south, making fifteen miles that day. The weather was raw and cold. We camped on Duck River.

30<sup>th</sup>. Marched fifteen miles, and camped south side of Tullahoma, on a creek, whose liquid waters coursed through the carcasses of scores of dead mules. Severe white frost at night.

31<sup>st</sup>. Marched on railroad tract to Dechard, where the regiment chartered a wood train, and rode to Chowan, Tenn., a distance of six miles.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> guerillas made a raid on a train, killing three soldiers and two citizens. They were captured by some of those mild tempered Tennesseans, who shot seven on the spot, and took twenty-three to Tullahoma, where they were hung. The 31<sup>st</sup> of March was the last day of March for me.

April 1<sup>st</sup>. Regiment marched thirteen miles, and were favored with another shower of twenty-four hours' duration.

April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Marched to Stevenson, where the small portion of the Regiment that not before got transportation to Chattanooga, where they found the majority of the regiment in camp.

Last night we had a splendid shower, which floated all of my property out of my quiet domicile. My little sanctuary has only been up two days, but has been floated twice.

In my next letter, I hope to be able to present to your readers one of the most brilliant productions yet produced. The article was written by four privates, one of them being a corporal. The authors are yet young, but bid fair to become masters of their profession.

Sentinels will now be very welcome. We expect to go to London soon, where our division is.

I am, Truly Yours, Sinbad.

WS, 5-4-1864

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Cleveland, Tenn., April 18, '64

EDITORS SENTINEL:

I think I wrote you last from Chattanooga. From the extensive improvements Gen. Thomas is making there, I should judge he intends making that place his future home, or else he thinks the war is to be a permanent affair. A splendid bridge is being built across the river, which would cost the State, were they building it, at least two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. An extensive levee is being made, water works are being built upon a hill, which are to force water into every fort, and I think all over town. Eighty hospitals are being built upon Lookout Mountain which are to be one hundred feet long. The city is being cleaned up, and bids fair to be a beautiful, as well as business place. The cemetery is being fenced in with a stone fence, and will be an ornament to the place.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> our regiment took the cars and went to London, leaving three companies, and a few from other companies, your servant included. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, our detachment took the cars, and started to join the regiment, but we're stopped here by General Howard, and since then we have been Provost Guards in this town. We are expecting the division here this week. Maj. Gen. Newton, from the Potomac, is to command our troops.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of March the citizens came in here to draw rations. My descriptive powers are inadequate to describe their appearance, or their actions. Like Bryan O'Lynn, they (the men) have no breeches to wear; and unlike Bryan O'Lynn, they have not the wherewith to buy sheep skins to make them a pair. This place is filled with refugees that have come here from Georgia, Alabama, and North Carolina. As fast as transportation can be furnished them, they are sent north, where they are accepted, I suppose without money and without price, and receive the blessings of that Government many of them have labored to destroy. Yesterday I was down to the train; one car was loaded, and near the door sat a man surrounded by Tennesseans, who were taunting him in every way they could. On enquiry, I was informed by the boys, in his presence, that he was a resident of this place, and a very influential man. On the breaking out of the rebellion, he advocated secession, and was in the employ of the Confederates. He was afterwards made recruiting officer at this place. The boys knew him "of old," as they expressed it. He made no reply to any of their remarks, but seemed uneasy when they told him, they were expecting two brothers, for whom they sent as soon as they saw him on the train, and they only hoped they would arrive before the train left, for, said they, "though the gallows may be robbed of its victim, the boys

will not go unrevengeed.” His name is Baswell; he has taken the oath, and gone North.

Nelson B. Sherwood is now first Lieutenant in Company H. Wilson Lawson has returned to duty, and expresses himself well pleased with his visit. I believe his recruits are yet to come.

Yours truly, Sinbad.

**The Regiment took part in the Atlanta, Georgia Campaign, May 1 thru  
September 8, 1864**

Little Phil Sheridan had gone east to command Grant's cavalry and the 36<sup>th</sup> was now part of Newton's division in O. O. Howard's corps, serving under "Uncle Billy" Sherman in the relentless advance on Atlanta.

The Confederate commander, Joseph E. Johnston, kept falling back, avoiding a major battle. But, the Fox River Regiment distinguished itself in a series of skirmishes at Rocky Face Ridge, Adairsville and New Hope Church.

*WS, 5-18-1864*

**FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT**

Cleveland, Tenn., May 1, '64

**EDITOR SENTINEL:**

I hope none of your readers will feel slighted at being invited to our May Party. It is to be given I believe, out near Dalton; a committee has been appointed from Bragg's army to meet and receive us. We are to carry our own dinner and music, and I suppose will not disperse without a quarrel, as I am told there are

some who will favor the woods with their company who do really feel an indefinable animosity toward someone. And as whiskey and gun powder are to be furnished, I should not be surprised if it broke up in a row.

The following is a list of promotions made in Company H yesterday. David Hartman, 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant, Day Elmore, 5<sup>th</sup> Sergeant, Jas. McDargh and L. B. Agnew to Corporalships. For once, the company have had their own way, and I guess all are satisfied. Our company was never better officered than now. Not a Sentinel has been received since we have been veterans. Some of our regiment are afflicted with the scurvy. God Bless the Sanitary Commission for the vegetables we are receiving. I beg they will not stop sending those necessaries this summer, on any account.

Yours Truly, Sinbad

**Demonstration on Rocky Faced Ridge, May 8-11**

**Buzzard's Roost Gap, May 8-9**

**Demonstration on Dalton, May 9-13**

**Battle of Resaca, May 14-15**

*AB, 5-26-1864*

From the 36<sup>th</sup>. – General Sherman's great antipathy to newspaper correspondents prevents our receiving news from our boys under his command. The only information we have from the 36<sup>th</sup> since their advance southward, is contained in the following paragraph, from the pen of Chaplain Haigh, giving a list of the killed and wounded in the battle of Resaca. The letter is dated at Calhoun, first station south of Resaca.

Killed – 5

Chas. M. Lytle, private, co A; Wm. Zeller, private, co E; Howard Whitney, corp, co F; D. B. Baldwin, private, co C; Wm. McCrary, private, co C.

### Wounded – 24

Wm. Smalls, private, co A, left leg; William Burk, p, co A, right leg; Edward Nute, p, co A, left hand; Henry Olcott, p, co B, head; R. Logan, p, co B, arm slight; George Ritz, p, co B, hand slight; Jacob Stands, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. co C, left foot; R. J. Caldwell, p, co C, right arm; J. A. Porter, sergt, co C, stunned; G. W. Nichols, co C, left hand; W. P. Boyd, p, co E, right leg; Milton Cornel, corp, co E, both legs foot amputated; Uriah Foster, p, co E, foot crushed; Fleier, p, co E, left foot; Erasmus Anderson, p, co F, left arm; Alfred Tomlin, p, co F, left arm; W. W. Good, corp, co H, left leg; J. S. Thomas, p, co I, left leg; H. Hirse, sergt co I, left arm; Geo. Laker, p, co K, right leg; I. H. Johnson, sergt, co K, right leg; J. M. Gordon 1<sup>st</sup> sergt, co K, right leg; A. Mitchell, p, co K, leg; Edward Reeder, p, co K, leg.

### Missing

F. J. Nichols co A.

Holmes Miller has received the following from his brother the Col.

Calhoun, Ga. May 1

All right and well. Loss of regiment at Resaca, 5 killed and 25 wounded. The assembly sounds and we must go on.

Sile.

Milton Cornell, a private in company E, gives some further items in a letter dated Hospital near Dalton, Ga.

In the action at Resaca, the 36<sup>th</sup> was engaged from 3 o'clock p.m. until after dark.

Cornell has had his foot amputated, and is doing well.

### **Adairsville, May 17**

### **Near Kingston, May 18-19**

### **Cassville, May 19**

### **Advance on Dallas, May 22-25**

### **Operations on line of Pumpkinvine Creek and Battles about Dallas, New**

**Hope Church, and Allatoona Hills, May 25 thru  
June 5**

*EG, 6-1-1864*

CASUALTIES IN THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLS.

*In the Battles near Resaca, Georgia, May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 1864*

Killed – 5 – Chas. M. Lytle, private, Co. A, Wm. Zellar, priv., Co. E, Howard Whitney, corp., Co. F, D. B. Baldwin, private, Co. C, Wm. McCrary, private, Co. C.

Wounded – 24 – Wm. Smalls, private, Co. A, left leg; Ed. Nute, p. Co. A, left hand; Henry Olcott, p. Co. B, head; R. Logan, p., Co. B, arm slight; George Ritz, p., Co. B, hand slight; Jacob Sands, 2d Lieut. Co. C, left foot; R. J. Caldwell, p., Co. C, right arm; J. A. Porter, sergt., Co. C, stunned; G. W. Nichols, Co. C, left hand; W. P. Boyd, p., Co. E, right leg; Milton Cornell, corp. Co. E, both legs, foot amputated; Uriah Foster, p., Co. E, foot crushed; Fred Bleier, p., Co. E, left foot; Erasmus Anderson, p., Co. F, left arm; W. W. Good, corp., Co. H, left leg; J. S. Thomas, p., Co. I, left leg; H. Hirse, sergt, Co. I, left arm; George Laker, p., Co. K, right leg; J. H. Johnson, sergt, Co. K, right leg; J. M. Gordon, 1<sup>st</sup> sergt, Co. K, right leg; A. Mitchell, p. Co. K, leg; Edward Reeder, p., Co. K, leg.

Missing – F. J. Nichols, Co. A.

Wm. M. Haigh,  
*Chaplain 36<sup>th</sup> Ills.*  
Calhoun, Ga., May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1864

*EG, 6-1-1864*

From the Elgin boys in Sherman's army, a letter from Wm. F. Sylla, dated on the battlefield, May 16, received today, says, "The Plato Cavalry were all right this morning. I saw them all last evening. The 36<sup>th</sup>, 127<sup>th</sup>, 52<sup>nd</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup>, and 105<sup>th</sup> have been in the battle." Another, dated 17<sup>th</sup>, says, "Ordway, Salisbury, Mr. Mann, Charley Stiles and others are all right." Also that he saw Dr. Merrifield, who said he had seen no Elgin boys wounded or killed.

*GCH, 6-8-1864*

Capt. Ed. Cass, of the 36<sup>th</sup>, was in town last week on his way to his home in Lisbon. We are sorry to see our old friend on crutches, but are pleased to be able to state that his wound is doing well and that his health otherwise is excellent. The Capt. was wounded at the last battle in Georgia, in which his regiment as usual took a prominent part. With every other citizen of Grundy and Kendall County, we feel a just pride in the glorious record of the old 36<sup>th</sup>. Capt. Cass reports Capt. Austin and the Morris boys all in excellent health and spirits.

*KCR, 6-9-1864*

### OUR HEROES.

Though thousands of our brethren have fallen during the bloody campaign in Virginia and Georgia, we have not felt the loss so great, because the mourning was not for us. Fathers, mothers, wives have suffered, and bewailed the sad havoc of war. This spring our community have felt but little the effects of war. But in the late battles near Dallas, and other places in Georgia, *we* have suffered. A few weeks ago, the 36<sup>th</sup> lost heavily, and now the 89<sup>th</sup> has been through the ordeal of fire again. This old regiment has felt the shock of battle again and again and has never flinched – firm as a rock and brave as Spartans, they have stood the brunt of battle.

Near Dallas, Ga., they lost many, and our own Company, H, has added to the list of fallen Heroes. Noble men! they have fell with their faces to the foe. But friends mourn, and fathers and mothers pass sleepless nights trying to look upon the face of their dear boy as he lays upon the battle-field, and picture to themselves how *he* looks. These parents have much sorrow, and everyone prays that God may bless them in their affliction.

*Killed – Co. H. 89<sup>th</sup> Regt.*

EdgarWood, Isaac Chittenden, and James Hopkins, in defense of their country!

*Wounded.* – A. D. Curran, Reuben Willett, Richard Field, J. D. Kern, J. Buffham, C. B. Tallmadge also missing, and Thomas Higgins.

These are *our* heroes, they have suffered for *us*. Let us sympathize with those who mourn for the dead and help those who are wounded by our

contributions for Sanitary Stores.

*WS, 6-22-1864*

From the 36<sup>th</sup>. – On our outside, we give a letter from “Sinbad,” with company H, 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry. Our readers are always glad to peruse his letters, and we hope we shall hear from him more frequently.

*WS, 6-22-1864*

#### FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Between Marietta and Dallas,  
June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1864

EDITOR SENTINEL:

The 36<sup>th</sup> regiment took its place in the 4<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, and started for Dallas. Skirmishing commenced as soon as we had passed our picket line, and has continued without cessation up to this time, and firing is heard still not far off. The rebels withdrew from Tunnel Hill, and made a stand on Buzzard Roost. This has been so often described that I will not attempt it.

On the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>, passed down the Roost, passed the rebel rifle pits, and saw the result of their labor in ditches, to give us a warm reception. I am well satisfied with the manner in which we obtained a look at them. The rifle pits were the best I ever saw. In front, for the width of two or three rods, small trees were cut down, the limbs sharpened and laid on rails about one foot high, tops to the front; then in front of this, stakes were driven into the ground, about one foot apart, and well sharpened; a very nice arrangement for us to charge upon.

#### DALTON

We arrived at Dalton about 10 a.m., where we were allowed to stack arms and rest. No sooner was the order given and partly executed, than a delegation from each squad went up town to see. Only a short time had elapsed before they began to return, one carrying a two bushel sack of peanuts, or Guber peas, another

a large bale of plug tobacco , another smoking tobacco by the bale, another a large rebel mail, in fact, things the most needed were the most plenty. We get sustenance from the peas, fun from the mail, and pleasure from the tobacco.

I stepped into a barber shop that had been doing a right pert chance of business, and enquired their prices. \$1 for a shave, \$2 for cutting hair, and \$3 for blacking boots, replied a black Ethiopian, stroking his adorable moustache. Considering the scarcity of our change, and the high prices prevailing here, I think none who are acquainted with us would be surprised to see us with our beards long and unshaven, and our pedal extremities encased in boots covered with the sacred soil. Mr Nig was quite indignant. In less than an hour the entire town was completely sacked.

We then moved forward in pursuit of the rebels. After marching about three miles, we halted to rest, and while there Capt. Hanchett, of Woodstock, came by. His visionary orbs serving him well, for notwithstanding the dust on our faces was so thick we could hardly shut our eyes, he knew us all. He looks first rate. He is on General Stoneman's staff.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> we found the rebels in force, a brisk fight was kept up in our front for some time, when we were ordered forward in line of battle.

About 3 p.m. the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois and the 15<sup>th</sup> Missouri were ordered to charge a fort – or at least that is what we did. While crossing an open space on the double quick, Madison W. Gould was shot in the knee, which has since been amputated. This is the second time he has been wounded. Although he can no longer be in our ranks, sharing our joys and sorrows with us, we cherish his memory, knowing from an association of almost three years, during a time that tried men's souls, that his faults were few, and his virtues many. He has lost a leg while standing between his country and its enemies, and I hope all loyal citizens will appreciate his services.

We charged up a hill, across an open field. We could not take the fort, but held our place for some time, and then fell back. Soon after, we tried it again, and again fell back, leaving a few dead in the woods. We fell back about half way across the field into a little creek, where we got a good position, protected by the banks. We stood in the water, in which some of our dead had fallen, and which quenched our thirst, for over four hours.

While we were in the ditch, firing at the fort, some of the chivalric Southerners set the woods on fire in which were our dead and wounded. We saw the fire that was consuming the bodies of our comrades, but we could do nothing for them.

About 11 o'clock we were relieved, and fell back a short distance, not to have warm coffee, but to lay down on the field and sleep, which we can always do.

Next morning on the skirmish line, the rebels drove very stubborn. We

drove them about five hours, when the rebels made a stand near night, and stopped the whole affair. Next morning we again advanced.

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, passed through Kingston two and a half miles, and camped. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, Col. F. T. Sherman, our brigade commander, was relieved by a man, Brig. Gen. Kimball.

23<sup>rd</sup>, again moved forward a short distance. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, Hooker had a fight near here. Our Division relieved him, and have since held this place.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> our regiment was on the skirmish line; we stayed two days.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> the rebels charged the whole line, and were repulsed. Willard's old battery is near here.

The boys look well. We are looking for the 95<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup>. My letter is very much disconnected, and stationery is just played out. For the past eleven days, we have worn our cartridge boxes day and night. We are wearing the same cloths now that we had on when we left Kingston. Old rooms accumulate tenants, and I guess we have something besides the noise to keep us awake at nights. Two kinds of Greybacks trouble us. We are all tired out. The rebels have fallen back, and we will follow within twenty minutes. We want to keep up the campaign. Nineteen men have been killed, five officers and sixty men wounded in the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Most of the boys will write a few lines home, but all are too much fatigued to write much. What we most want, is to wash our shirts.

Respectfully Yours, Sinbad.

*GCH, 7-6-1864*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>

We are permitted to extract the following from a private letter from L. B. Dawson of the 36<sup>th</sup>.

Since my last to you, which was on the 15<sup>th</sup>, I have experienced some of the toughest times since I have been in the service. We have had considerable fighting since, in which the regiment participated, losing some 28 killed, wounded and missing, the missing supposed to be prisoners. Sunday, the 19<sup>th</sup>, is a day that will long be remembered by many in the regiment. That day we were on the skirmish line and advanced to the foot of the Kennesaw Mountain where we met the rebs in force in a strong position. Here we had a smart little fight with them, and our men got so tangled up in the thick undergrowth of bushes and briers that we were in one another's lines. Some of our men were actually laid hold of and taken, but were

rescued and escaped, and a good many of the Rebs were taken in out of the wet and marched to the rear. Finally we had to fall back a few rods and reestablished our line. Our loss that day was 24. Co. G, 3 – Samuel Saltmarsh, killed; B. L. Streeter and Warren Foulk, missing. Taylor of Co. D was severely wounded; also Alfred Gaylord. Since then there has been fighting, more or less, every day, though our loss has been slight. How long this thing is going to continue I can't say, but I hope not long. This is our 53<sup>rd</sup> day out, and hereafter no man need talk to me of hard times, or what they have done or passed through, that has not been in this summer's campaign. Yesterday Col. Bartletson of the 100<sup>th</sup> Ill., from Joliet, was killed. The loss in our regiment, so far, has been 115 out of about 300, which you see is over 33 1/3 percent.

Total Loss of Co. G.

KILLED – Joseph Hook, James Royds, Samuel Saltmarsh.

WOUNDED – Robert Bradshaw, Ellis Hultsizer.

MISSING – B. L. Streeter, Warren Foulk.

*WS, 7-13-1864*

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Between Marietta and Dallas,  
June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

EDITOR SENTINEL:

We are still lying behind the trenches, with the enemy in our immediate front. Last evening, Jerome C. Ford of our company was slightly wounded in the head. Corporal Samuel G. Carver arrived day before yesterday, but looks very poorly. Charles Crawford has not yet arrived.

The nomination of Abraham Lincoln for President was hailed with joy; he just suits us. Mustering out Maj. Gen. Buell is a good omen. The time was when we could support Fremont, but when he went back on our President, whom we are sworn to support, we go back on him. When he censures Abe Lincoln, we lose confidence in him. One thing more we would heartily approve, muster out our shelved Maj. Generals, and draft them. Increase the pay of crippled soldiers. What is eight dollars per month as compensation for the loss of a leg or an arm. I would rather our wages should be decreased, and pensions raised to twenty dollars per month, at least.

Sergeant Wilson Lawson must have been captured, as we have heard nothing from him since our hand to hand encounter with the rebels.

Corporal James McDougal and John P. Floyd are on the sick list.

We have just received our ration of whiskey. Company H can still furnish seven privates for duty, and seven non commissioned officers.

Graybacks are still plenty. How funny it would seem for us to have some clean cloths on.

Sinbad.

*GCH, 7-13-1864*

We call the attention of the patriotic people of Grundy, to the call for supplies for the soldiers in Sherman's Army. It is some time since there has been any call made upon them, and at this season of the year, there are many articles of fruit and vegetables which can be contributed with but little sacrifice. Let Malcomb's store be literally filled with good things for our suffering boys. We hope the friends having the matter in charge will not be to the expense of sending anyone from here to the army with the articles, better send the goods and money through the Sanitary or Christian Commission, either of which organization can get them there sooner and cheaper than our private enterprise. Perhaps some of our worthy citizens having friends in the department will volunteer to deliver and distribute the goods without expense. The soldiers at this time need every coat that can be raised for their comfort, and nothing should be wasted in unnecessary expense.

*AB, 7-14-1864*

#### FROM THE THIRTY SIXTH

The following letter has been by some means materially delayed in the mails. Although over a month old, it yet contains items of interest:

Pumpkinvine Creek, near Dallas, Ga.,  
Saturday, June 4, 1864.

Eds. Beacon: -- We left Cleveland one month yesterday, since which time our march has been an unbroken succession of skirmishes, culminating here and there with a heavy "frail." Of the latter, Resaca was the first and most important. (Just now a charge is being made by the rebels in our front. The artillery and musketry play lively.) You are acquainted with the particulars. Our loss (the 36<sup>th</sup>) was comparatively light. We suffered more at Adairsville, owing to *General* mismanagement on our side, and we looked for numbers and obstinacy on the part of the rebs. After our three days rest at "two Run Creek," four miles from Kingston, we resumed our march toward Atlanta. Leaving the railroad we crossed the Etowah River, eight miles below the point occupied by Johnston; there striking across the Altoona Mountains we menaced Atlanta. Owing to the rough, hilly nature of the country, we made such slow progress that Johnston discovered the movement in time to throw his army between us and the City. The first intimation we had of their presence in this vicinity, was the evening of May 25<sup>th</sup>, when Hood's and Hooker's corps collided. It was a surprise to each, recovering from which they were thrown into line of battle and engaged. The battle lasted until dark. Hooker lost 700; Hood I presume as many.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> they displayed so strong a force, and appeared so quarrelsome, that it was evident they intended to contest our advance. If they do there will be a hard fight; it is already brewing. They do not seem anxious to strike the first blow, and Sherman is not ready. The rebs I presume are impatient, but if they will only wait, they will, have a golden opportunity to drive back the "Yankee hordes."

We have three lines of breastworks, which are being strengthened daily. The first one is within twenty rods of the rebs, who are well fortified. Not a man on either side dare show his head, for the moment he does it becomes a target for a dozen foes. Our boys are very cautious. The rebs have shown themselves such excellent marksmen, that the boys so far acknowledge their skill as to keep well under cover. Very few thirty sixes have been wounded in the head. The firing, however, is incessant, and if you are not posted, might like to hear how they manage it. I will explain. Surmounting the first line of works a line of logs were so arranged as to leave a space of two or three inches, to be used as a long port hole. The boys, when the rebs are unusually noisy, chink up the cracks with their knapsacks, etc., leaving apertures just large enough to enable them to "keep an eye out" on the rebels.

One of the 36<sup>th</sup>'s boys, named Henry Haines, a recruit of company A, had just placed his knapsack in position, when zip came a Confederate compliment instantly displacing it, making a great hole through its bowels. "I'll have

satisfaction for that or another knapsack,” said Haines, and forthwith his strategy began. Passing his Enfield through the porthole, so ranged as to cover the spot where the rebel lay concealed, he directed a comrade to take his knapsack and gradually replace it, but like Whetzel with the Indian, to keep his body hid. As soon as Johnny Reb saw it, he raised his gun for another shot, but he never made it, for a ball from Haines’ rifle laid him low.

You would not suppose our front line of breastworks to be the safest of the three, but such is the case. Every bullet which misses the first line strikes somewhere among the troops in the rear, and often causes mischief. We have suffered more in this way since we have been here than in any other. One man of the 74<sup>th</sup> Ill. was sleeping in his “shelter,” when a bullet came and went through both feet. It woke him up he said, but broke no bones. Another of those Confederate stragglers wounded three men, all slightly. Two were brothers. A man was carrying a box of hard tack to his regiment, when a bullet struck it, passing clear through, and lodging in his neck. Col. Miller was taking a drink – of water – per necessity, when another straggling shot went through it. It did not touch him, fortunately, but split the cup, and as it was the only one he had, felt very much provoked. I tell you these stray bullets which go round the woods whistling Dixie, are no respecter of Yankee persons. Surgeons prescribing two or three hundred yards in the rear, have had many close calls. And it is even initiated that the persons of Quartermasters would be liable to mutilation, if any of them were so reckless as to approach nearer than *two miles* of the front. It is generally believed, however, and so far as heard from positively known, that not a single one of the fraternity has been injured.

You are doubtless acquainted with our casualties. They foot up 16 killed and 67 wounded. I would send the list but cannot obtain it.

C. A. M.

To this we subjoin extracts from Colonel Miller’s letter, as follows:

Our first smell of fire in earnest was at Resaca. We saw some fighting about Dalton, but had none ourselves. At Resaca our division was in reserve, but had to furnish one brigade to relieve a brigade of Cox’s division, 23<sup>rd</sup> corps. About noon our brigade was ordered to relieve this brigade, Hawkins, and was moved forward in line of battle for that purpose.

We were moved forward in line across open field confronting the enemy’s works; the left of the brigade striking in the timber, occupied by our troops, but the right regiment of our first and second lines, (15<sup>th</sup> Mo. and 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.) were separated from the remainder by a small ravine, and brought up in front of an earthwork occupied by the enemy, with infantry and artillery. We were subject to a very severe artillery fire while crossing the field. We remained within forty rods of the

fort, protected by the conformation of the ground, continually firing, until nearly dark, when we retired to better shelter a little further off, and remained until relieved, about nine o'clock. Our loss was 25 wounded and 5 killed.

Our next participation in a quarrel began at Calhoun. Our brigade being in advance of the corps, the 36<sup>th</sup> was placed in the skirmish line, in the morning. Not 20 rods from the picket line they were complimented with a volley, and were continually in sight and pursuit of the enemy until relieved by three regiments at noon. When near Adairsville the enemy made quite a decided stand, and the whole brigade was finally put in and still failed to advance further. During that day we lost 5 killed and 24 wounded.

Afterwards, upon our arrival before Dallas, on the day of Hopkin's fight, we were brought into line, but were not engaged until the next morning when the 36<sup>th</sup> was again ordered forward as skirmishers, and remained out two days, until lines of works had been constructed. In this place we remained under fire, or where we constantly courted the protection of earth works for ten days, losing about 20 men killed and wounded during the time. Upon the evacuation of the works in our front at that point, we moved with the remainder of the army toward the left, to near Acworth. After a rest of one day we moved forward toward the enemy's position in our front. After forcing the enemy from two lines of strong works, which compelled the abandonment of Lost Mountain, on Saturday, the 18<sup>th</sup>, we moved forward upon and captured a third line which was an out work to a strong heavy main line. That day we got so much artillery in position, and so fine an enfilade fire upon them, that the next morning they were gone. We lost only 5 men that day. On Sunday, the 19<sup>th</sup>, our regiment with the 88<sup>th</sup> Ill., were placed upon the skirmish line between the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> army corps. The left of the line occupied by the 88<sup>th</sup> met no opposition, but the right was strongly resisted. The 36<sup>th</sup> lost three killed, thirteen wounded, and six prisoners, while the two regiments captured 5 officers and about twenty enlisted men from the enemy. Since then we have not been engaged. Loss since leaving Cleveland, 112 killed and wounded.

I must stop, as we are ordered forward to take the enemy's works. Will finish afterward if permitted.

## **Operations about Marietta and against Kenesaw Mountain, June 10 thru July 2, 1864**

**Pine Hill, June 11-14**

**Lost Mountain, June 15-17**

## **Assault on Kennesaw Mountain, June 27**

Finally at Kennesaw Mountain, the dance ends. Tired of flanking and in turn being flanked by Johnston, Sherman ordered a frontal assault straight up the mountain. 200 Yankee cannons slammed away, creating a terrific racket but doing little damage to the enemy. When the assault began, the sound of the Confederate musketry was described as “a roar as constant as Niagra.” In the center, Newton’s division, with the 36<sup>th</sup>, came under deadly fire from the divisions of Cheatham and Cleburne in Hardee’s corps. There was no glorious reprise of Missionary Ridge. Kennesaw Mountain was a bloody failure. Leading the regiment uphill on foot in the face of terrific fire, Colonel Miller was wounded.

June 27<sup>th</sup> was a broiling hot day. The deafening sounds of battle had ended as abruptly as it had begun; and in the sullen glare of the setting sun nothing could be heard but the buzz of flies on swollen corpses and the pitiful lamentations of the wounded.

Although one of those wounded, Colonel Miller might still consider himself fortunate. He had been evacuated from the field by his comrades and his wound was not thought fatal. He was soon shipped behind the lines to Nashville, where he could get better care.

## **Ruff’s Station, Smyrna Camp Ground, July 4**

## **Chattahoochie River, July 5-17**

*GCH, 7-27-1864*

We desire to call the attention of our readers to the following communication received by Post Master Hanna, from the Special Relief Office of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

Washington, D.C. July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1864

H. S. Hanna Esq.,

Dear Sir. – Having been informed by the Adjutant General of your State, that John Corson late of Co. G. 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vol. had enlisted from Morris, I take the liberty of applying to you, asking if any relative or member of his family still lives

in your town. I have in my charge effects of his which were brought from Danville, Va., where he died as prisoner of war and which I wish to restore to his family. Any such information will greatly oblige,

Yours Very Respectfully  
J. B. Abbott.

*AB, 7-28-1864*

### LETTER FROM NASHVILLE

Nashville, Tenn., July 13<sup>th</sup>, '64.

Eds. Beacon: -- Possibly you and your many readers would be interested in a few words from this city of filth and cripples. Well, this is Nashville, the once boasted resort of the haughty Southern aristocrats. But Lord! How the mighty have fallen! Today this aristocratic city of original secession, presents a sad spectacle. It has met with mighty changes. Now most of its public buildings and many of its finest residences are filled with the wounded and maimed heroes of the Union army, while its population is a conglomeration of everything: Jews, negroes, sutlers, shoulder-straps, ladies, women, strumpets, rebels, thieves, murderers, &c., are all represented, and apparently all doing a thriving business. Many of the old inhabitants are in Dixie, beyond the rebel lines, while others are sneaking back, taking the amnesty oath, and collecting thousands of dollars in greenbacks from the government for back rent for the use of their buildings and property. That amnesty proclamation may be a good thing, but I can't see it. It gives many of the original and meanest secessionists a chance to desert from the rebel army, sneak back here, take the oath, and go into business again, without proper punishment for their treason.

There has been considerable excitement here for the past few days in consequence of the arrival of a large number of rebel prisoners, many of whom belong to this city, and have friends residing here. Of course they were anxious to see and converse with their friends, and their friends with them – all of which is contrary to orders. They beg, plead, force and try all kinds of strategy to accomplish their purpose, but resulting without any success. Our young friend Geo. D. Sherman, of Elgin, the gallant Major of the old 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., is in command of the military prison, and has been in the service quite long enough to have learned to love and respect secessionists – over the left. He enforces the orders every time. He says No! in a tone that they rarely misunderstand; and to a blushing young she rebel just as cool as an ugly old maid who had been practicing it all her life. They

will remember Sherman. He evidently does not intend to marry in the country. He hangs guerillas and bushwackers between meals without diminishing his appetite in the least. The hospitals are full with very badly wounded cases. They receive the best of care and attention. The weather is very hot, and gangrene and erysipelas are very troublesome. The Sanitary Commission is doing a great work here -- saving hundreds of noble and valuable lives. By all means urge your aid societies to continue their efforts. They are receiving the thanks of thousands of soldiers.

There are a large number of the 36<sup>th</sup> here, many of them severely wounded. Worst among them is their gallant boy Colonel Silas Miller. He is wounded through the right shoulder, and is having gangrene badly. He bears it without a single murmur. He is a soldier in the full acceptation of the term.

Tattle Tale

*AB, 7-28-1864*

Major Sherman, in command of the military prison at Nashville, writes to the *Elgin Gazette*:

I have about 500 Federal and citizen prisoners, who are permanent borders at this hotel, besides all prisoners from the front, who are sent here for safe keeping until transportation can be furnished them north. I have nearly 2000 on hand. A part are to be forwarded this afternoon. I have hung seven bushwackers since June 19<sup>th</sup>, and there are about fifteen more that will go the same road.

Col. Miller is here, wounded in the back. He is doing well. His brother and Dr. Young are here taking care of him, and start for home as soon as he is able, which will be not under ten days.

### **Buckhead, Nancy's Creek, July 18, 1864**

As if to fulfill Colonel Miller's dreadful prophecy, the regiment seemed to be in constant peril. For ten straight days, starting with an action at Pumpkin Vine Creek, it was under enemy fire. With the church spires of Atlanta now in view, the campaign reached its climax

## Peachtree Creek, July 19-20

Command of the Confederate army passed from cautious Joe Johnston to aggressive John Bell Hood, "Lion of the South." The 36<sup>th</sup> was in the battle of Peach Tree Creek and the fight at Jonesboro.

*AB, 8-4-1864*

### COL. SILAS MILLER.

The announcement made on Thursday morning last, that Colonel Silas Miller was dead, and his remains were then on their way to Aurora for interment, went with a sad and heavy pressure to the heart of every person in the city. We all loved him; we had seen in his life great promise of future usefulness; and mourned that the silver cord should be so soon loosed, and the golden bowl broken. We knew that his wound was fatal, that his life was nearly ebbd out, but could not bring ourselves to believe that one whom we had so lately seen in all the vigor and pride of a perfect manhood, was so soon laid low.

Friday evening the accommodation train brought the lifeless remains of our hero, and the sorrowing relatives and friends who had gone to Nashville, and stood beside his bedside as his spirit took its flight. Thousands of our citizens waited for the arrival of the train, and received in mute sorrow all that remained of him whom they had but a few short months since bidden adieu in cheers and vivas; and in whom in never betrayed confidence they placed the welfare of brother, husband, son and father.

The body was taken to the residence of James G. Barr, Esq., and lay there, visited by hundreds who desired one glance at the inanimate clay, until the funeral ceremonies on Sunday afternoon.

The Col. having been made a Mason in 1861, that ancient fraternity took in charge the ceremonies of the occasion, inviting to join them such military men as might be able and inclined. At 3 o'clock Jerusalem Temple lodge, with invited brethren from Aurora lodge, Oswego, Batavia, and Geneva, numbering 300, all clad in appropriate mourning, left Jerusalem temple rooms, and escorted by a company of military under Captain Prichard, and an honorary corps of old officers, all marshaled by Wm. H. Hawkins, took up their solid line of march to Mr. Barr's residence, whence the hearse and mourners were escorted to the park. Here at least 4000 people were gathered, to pay their final tribute to the brave. The funeral

services were lead in a beautiful hymn by the Congregational quoir, followed by prayer by Rev. Mr. Bugbee, an oration by Rev. Dr. Forrester, and prayer by a clergyman from Oswego. From the park the funeral train passed to the cemetery, marching to the solemn notes of "Pleyel's Hymn." At the cemetery, the solemn services of the Masonic Order were read. Each brother cast upon the coffin lid his sprig of evergreen, emblematic of eternal life, the military salute was fired, and all that was mortal of our beloved friend and brother, the noble man, the devoted and patriotic soldier, was consigned to earth.

There are no encomiums which we could bestow upon the deceased, which could equal the simple facts contained in the following sketch of his life and public services, prepared by one who knew him long and intimately:

Silas Miller was born in Tompkins County, in the State of New York, on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1839, and was therefore twenty five years and three months old at the time of his death. His father moved to Aurora, Illinois, in August, 1842, and died when Silas was five years old, leaving a wife and six children in rather destitute circumstances. Mrs. Miller continued to keep house, and kept her family together until Silas, who was the youngest of the family, was ten years old, at which period the children all began to earn their own support, and Mrs. Miller suspended housekeeping. Silas commenced his education in the old district school, under the directions of our worthy townsman, A. P. Farnsworth, the schoolhouse standing on the ground now occupied as the public Park, and upon the identical spot where his funeral sermon was preached last Sabbath. He possessed a decidedly independent disposition from his infancy, and a very early age manifested a great liking for books and study. He was a very apt scholar, and while in school always two or three classes ahead of the other children of his age. When he was but ten years old he started in business for himself. His first efforts were upon the farm of M. N. Norris – consideration to be received: what he wanted to eat and wear. This arrangement would keep him alive and clothed, but would not leave him much ahead save in years and muscle. He followed farming only a short period of time, and even that under several different landlords. The last agricultural employer soon returned him to his friends with the advice that he could never make a farmer out of Silas, as he had altogether too many books in his head. After being convinced of his shortcomings and entire worthlessness as a farmer, Silas unsubdued, determined to change his tactics and try another occupation. It was an absolute necessity. He was here and must live, and principally by the sweat of his own brow. The next and only thing that presented itself was the printing business. He concluded to accept – yes, he would even become a devil, and live upon his own resources and earnings, rather than depend on the assistance of others. In the Spring of 1853 he entered the Beacon office as an apprentice. The

paper was then conducted by Myron V. Hall, and the working force of the establishment consisted of Geo. S. Bangs, Thomas Wilson, now financial and chief clerk of the Chicago Journal, and James P. Wentworth. Aurora then could count less than three thousand inhabitants. From the day that the long legged white headed boy Silas entered the printing office he became a changed being; a new ambition took possession of him, and he seemed to live a different life. He had found his affinity. Here among the types and papers was a fresh field for study and thought, all strange and new to him, but in accordance with his hopes and manly aspirations. He labored faithfully for near two years in the office, discharging his duties in a satisfactory manner, when he struck higher, and obtained a situation in the news room of The Chicago Evening Journal, where he remained for near two years. During this time he never entered the theatre or visited any other places of amusement of any kind. He labored faithfully day and night, always economizing and saving his money, with which to defray the expenses of his intended studies. He has related to the writer of this paragraph that during all his then residence in Chicago, he did not go three blocks from his boarding house save and except as he went to and from his work at the Journal office. At this time his acquirements in the ordinary branches of study were very excellent, he having spent all of his leisure time for over two years in preparing for his future studies; his hours of labor and study were regularly from sixteen to eighteen every day of the time he worked in the Journal office. After quitting the Journal office he again returned to Aurora and recommenced work in the Beacon office. He worked in the Beacon office a short time, then entered Clark Seminary as a student, attended several terms in that institution, at the same time working in the Beacon office all the spare time he could find, to earn means to defray his expenses while in school. From Clark Seminary he went to the State of New York and spent two years at Fort Edward Seminary. During the last year of his membership of this Seminary he was the acknowledged leader of the school, in oratory and literary composition. When he returned from Fort Edward he entered the office of Charles Wheaton as a law student. He spent the winter of 1860 in teaching school in Bristol, in Kendall County. From his school he returned to Wheaton's office and resumed his law studies, in which pursuit he was engaged when the rebellion broke out, when he exchanged his books for a sword, in defense of his government and its laws.

In April, 1861, soon after Fort Sumter was fired upon, he was among the first to enlist in defense of his country and it's Constitution. He enlisted as a private in company C of the old seventh regiment. On the organization of the company he was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, and soon thereafter, before the regiment left Springfield, he was promoted to the first Lieutenancy, and served in that capacity three months, the term of his enlistment. His regiment was among the first that arrived at Cairo, and notwithstanding the incompleteness of their outfit,

and the consequential deprivations and hardships they endured in that city of filth and copperheads, the young Lieutenant returned to Aurora unsatisfied. The object for which he enlisted was not obtained; the rebellion was not crushed. Armed traitors were still in the land threatening the life of his government. This he would not submit to. He had sworn to keep his sword unsheathed until himself or the rebellion died. True to that pledge, he was among the first to advise and urge the organization of the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment. As soon as his three months term of enlistment expired he returned to Aurora, reenlisted, and urged others to, until they filled Company B. Upon the organization of the company the boys elected him Captain, unanimously. He left Camp Hammond, Aurora, in company with his regiment, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September, 1861, and went with it to Rolla, Mo. The first thing after the regiment was organized he sought and procured all the various published works on military tactics, and applied himself diligently in learning the principles and rudiments of war and military science. In this, as in everything else, he was thoroughly thorough. The bugle calls and various drills, especially the skirmish, were his daily lessons and constant themes. So diligently did he apply himself, and so thoroughly accomplished his undertaking, that he soon was the recognized drill master of the regiment. Although the youngest Captain in the regiment, he was the umpire to whom was referred all regimental disputes and disagreements as to drills and military science. He was not satisfied to simply possess this information himself. He worked hard and urged strongly to have it promulgated to the regiment. At first he appointed certain hours every day, when he demanded the attendance of the Lieutenants and non-commissioned officer of the company, and instructed them in the bugle calls and skirmish drill. So persistent was he in this custom and exercise, that the balance of the command considered his bugle and its squeaks and nuisance. They did not understand or appreciate its importance. He did, and therefore persevered. His studious habits and officer like conduct soon attracted the attention of his superiors, and when any feat or special importance was to be performed, Capt. Miller, with his lively and vigorous company B, were quite sure to be selected. During the early Missouri and Arkansas campaign he did good, and important service. At Pea Ridge, when Price and his Missouri ragmuffins were first met by Curtis and Sigel, Capt. Miller and skirmish tactics were brought into immediate requisition. The enemy was met, secreted; skirmishers were needed to hunt them up. Capt. Miller with Company B, and his heretofore unwelcome bugle squeaks now became an object of importance and general admiration. His harsh bugle notes now became important music. They meant business. Now we could discern their importance and uses that he had comprehended months before. He and his company were called for by Gen. Sigel, and immediately sent forward as the first skirmishers of that army and campaign. And most gallantly did they respond and most thoroughly accomplish their task.

From that day Capt. Miller's reputation as a thoroughly drilled skirmish officer was a fixed fact. From that day to the time he was wounded, in all the various battles that his famous old regiment has participated, he was certain to be assigned the responsible post in charge of the skirmish line. It was his pleasure and duty to face the first rebel bullets, and exchange the first leaden compliments with the rebels in a majority of the battles in the Southwest. When the regiment was sent to Mississippi and stationed at Rienzi, the extreme outpost of our army, it became necessary to advance a force beyond the main army as a picket. Again Captain Miller was selected and placed in command, and on all other occasions, he performed his duties well. Here it was that he first formed the acquaintance of his much esteemed friend Major General Phil. Sheridan. That acquaintance grew into a mutual life long friendship. From that time until General Sheridan left the army of the Cumberland, Captain, then Major, then Colonel Miller, was one of his most intimate friends and constant supporters. While stationed at Rienzi, Miss., Col. Greusel was placed in command of a brigade, and Capt. Miller in command of the regiment. From Rienzi to Cincinnati, Ohio, and thence to Louisville, Kentucky, thence through the Buell Kentucky campaign and the battle of Perryville, the regiment was commanded by Capt. Miller. Never did any officer do better, or give more general satisfaction than he did in this terrible fight. The boys in the regiment who had always admired him, now loved him.

In September, 1862, he was commissioned Major of the regiment, and, continued in command during its sojourn at Edgefield, Mill Creek, and on the march from the latter place to Murfreesboro, Tenn., and during the two or three first days' fights of that memorable struggle. On the morning of the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December, 1862, he was wounded and captured by the rebels. Though maimed, crippled and bleeding, he was marched to the rebel rear, and thence transported to Atlanta, where he was placed in prison in company of many of his brother officers. From Atlanta he was conveyed to Richmond, and placed in the notorious Libby Prison for safe keeping. He was held a prisoner of war a little over four months, and then exchanged. After he was exchanged he paid a hurried visit to Aurora, his home, spent a twenty days furlough, and then hurried to the front to join his regiment and fight the enemies of his government. During his incarceration at Richmond both the Colonel and the Lieutenant Colonel resigned, and in March, 1863, he was commissioned Colonel of the regiment, although he was but twenty three years old, and quite beardless. For instance to illustrate his youthful look and appearance I will give the following incident. While he was at home on the above mentioned furlough, he was in Chicago looking at some military goods, in the company of several other officers of his regiment, and he inquired to see some shoulder straps. The clerk, a wise looking individual, said, "Which do you desire, first or second Lieutenant?" The boys of the regiment considered it a rare joke,

and frequently told on the Colonel. He remained with his regiment, and participated in all the various engagements and skirmishes in Rosecran's advance from Murfreesboro to Chattanooga, fought in the terrible fight at Chickamauga, and his regiment suffered severely. Again he and his regiment participated in the battle of Mission Ridge, in which he commanded a brigade, and won new laurels and compliments, both for his bravery and military sagacity. After the battle of Mission Ridge he went with his command into East Tennessee, and there with them endured one of the severest campaigns, that has been made during the war. Notwithstanding all these things, in January, 1864, he and his handful of remaining heroes reenlisted for another three years as veterans. They received a furlough of thirty days and came home to enjoy it. But there was too much matter of fact – too much business about the Colonel to enjoy furloughs or other inactivity. True to his government and his nature, he hurried his regiment back to the field of duty as soon as their furloughs had expired. His command was returned to East Tennessee, and marched from thence back to Chattanooga, and started with General Sherman on his late and eventful campaign. He and his regiment participated in all the engagements between Chattanooga and Kenesaw Mountain, when he received the fatal wound. In most of them he had his old place – the skirmish line. From his brother officers in the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment, we learn that he had a positive presentment that he should be hit in this campaign. Before the battle of Resaca he talked with the Lieut. Colonel, and told him that he felt that he should be hit, but never the less he could and should go into the fight and do his duty. He escaped from the battle unhurt, notwithstanding he did his duty faithfully and exposed himself unreservedly and fearlessly. Again, before the battle of Dallas, he repeated his apprehensions of his fate, and instructed of his officers of the regiment that if he fell he desired them to secure his body, if possible, and send it to his friends in Aurora for interment. He said that he did not wish to remain alone down in that rebel country, but added that, in no event did he want them to abate their efforts against the enemy on his account. He said. "first whip the enemy, then look after me!" They tried to persuade him that his fears were unfounded; said that he had passed through so many engagements unhurt that they could not think he would meet such a fate now. He coolly replied, "Boys, this thing isn't played out yet!" True enough, it was not. He who had fought his way from a private to the Colonelcy of his regiment, was a doomed man, and he, brave soldier felt it. Still he would not falter. He kept his perilous place, the skirmish line, until the last moment, on Monday morning, the 27<sup>th</sup> of June, when he fell, seriously wounded, with drawn saber in hand, gallantly leading his men in the charge on Kenesaw Mountain, in the State of Georgia. He was immediately carried to the rear, where he was examined and his wound dressed by the surgeon in charge. The wound was through the right shoulder and shoulder blade, shattering the latter badly. While

upon the operating table, undergoing a severe surgical operation he inquired how the contest was going and how many wounded men had been brought in. Chaplain Haigh replied, "Fifteen, and all from the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment!" He exclaimed, "My God! They will murder all those dear boys," and then wept like a child. Although seriously and mortally wounded himself, yet his thoughts and anxieties were concerning the results of the fight and the welfare of the boys. Poor, brave, unselfish Silas! What a loss to the service, and especially to the boys in his regiment, to have him fall in the midst of this important struggle? He was sent from the front to Chattanooga, and from there to the officers hospital in Nashville. The weather was extremely hot, the distance so great and the accommodations so poor that he suffered severely in being transported from the front to Nashville. He knew and appreciated the extremity of the situation and the necessities of the case, and therefore bore all the incurred torture with his usual soldier like fortitude. Arrived at Nashville he immediately telegraphed his brother, and for Dr. Young, an old acquaintance, and formerly Surgeon of the regiment. Harvey Miller and the Dr. left immediately, and when they arrived at Nashville they found him indeed severely wounded. The Dr. and his friends remained with him constantly from that time until he died, on Wednesday morning, July 27<sup>th</sup>, just one month from the day he was wounded. The weather during the entire month was excessively hot and unfavorable for wounded men. Gangrene soon made its appearance in its worst and most persistent form, requiring severe surgical operations, and the severest remedies known to the medical profession. All these means were most faithfully applied and persevered in, but all to no purpose. Piemia finally supervened, and the brave soldier who had braved almost everything, now surrendered up his life without a murmur of a struggle. When he was told by his Physician that he could not possibly recover, he considered a moment and then said, "Doctor, I do not like to hear it." This was all the regret he uttered. He was a true soldier to the last. His soul was in the cause. During his four weeks suffering his whole anxiety was concerning the army and its achievements. When awake or asleep, while sane or delirious, he talked about the army, his regiment and its boys. Several hours before he died he became delirious and talked incoherently. He was back to his old place on the skirmish line, urging on the boys and reporting to General Howard. His last words were, "keep down and keep your eyes peeled!" In a word, he died on the skirmish line. There we leave him. Peace to the gallant boy Colonel's ashes. The rebels never killed a better one.

*KCR, 8-11-1864*

MISCELLANEOUS.

Col. Silas Miller.

The Aurora Beacon of last week contained a most excellent sketch of the life and character of this dead officer. From it we find that the Colonel was a practical printer. He bore a good character in the army, and had not death so soon cut him down, he would, undoubtedly, have donned the stars. He fills a soldier's grave.

*KCR, 8-11-1864*

SANITARY FAIR.

The Illinois State Sanitary Commission are to have a department in the State Fair grounds at Decatur on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September, for the aid of the soldier. We have received a circular in relation to it, which will be published next week. Donations are solicited of butter, eggs, vegetables, poultry, fruit, wool, yarn, feathers, and soft old linen or cotton rags, and anything else that can be sold. Ship all articles to the "State Sanitary Fair," care of Mr. Thomas Wingate, Decatur.

While on the subject we would speak of a suggestion that we heard made that all articles, or the most of them, exhibited at the County Fair, next month, be sold for the benefit of, or donated to the Sanitary Commission. This can easily be done, and our farmers, will feel but little the loss. Let such articles as vegetables, jellies, preserves, pickles, butter, bread, quilts, &c. be shipped to the Commission, and the larger articles, as cattle, sheep, machinery, and such things, be sold for the benefit of the same society. Will you think of this! We want a larger fund for our soldiers. We should like to hear from some of the friends on the subject.

AB, 8-18-1864

### HOW BRAVE HE WAS.

B. F. Taylor, in a recent letter in the Chicago Evening *Journal*, has this to say of that brave and noble young man, the late Colonel Miller of 36<sup>th</sup>; “That I should think of the gallant young Colonel, Silas Miller of the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois, now dead and in his grave; that I should recall the old time when a compositor in this office of the *Journal* he put my crabbed and crooked ‘copy’ into even-ranked brevies; and the later day – why, it is only four months ago! – when I shared his out door hospitality on the borders of Georgia? The same laughing face, though something older and thinner, and the same frank way with him. Ah, how brave he was said a commanding General to me, after the battle of Chattanooga, ‘that little Colonel of yours’ – meaning of Illinois – of the 36<sup>th</sup>, *ought* to be a descendant of the Colonel Miller who gave General Ripley that short answer – *is* he? You remember the laconic talk at Lundy’s Lane; -- “Can you take that battery?” said the General. “I’ll *try* sir,” cried the Colonel, and *took* it!

“Oh, brave Heart! Oh, true Heart!  
Forever good night!”

Chaplain Haigh, of the 36<sup>th</sup>, also loved the boy Colonel, and in a letter written since his death, relates the following incident, which occurred only a few days before he was wounded:

“In an engagement the week before, in which the 36<sup>th</sup> was on the skirmish line, they succeeded in capturing a number of prisoners, including several officers; his line was pressed, and feeling the necessity of having every man in front, he ordered those who took back the prisoners to deliver them to the first staff officer they could find and immediately return. By this means a number of them were delivered to Baird’s division of the 14<sup>th</sup> corps; Our division commander on learning this fact said to him, “Why Baird’s division will get all the glory! “Glory, General,” was the reply, “is a mighty cheap thing with me when I need men!”

AB, 8-25-1864

FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>.

Head Qrs. 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. In. Vols.,  
Near Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 8, 1864

*To the Mother, Sister and Brothers of the late Col. Silas Miller:*

The sad news has reached us that our beloved Colonel is no more, having died exactly one month from the time he received his wound, while gallantly leading us against the enemy at Kennesaw.

We cannot refrain from expressing to you our unaffected sorrow at the event which deprives you of a beloved son and brother, and us of a noble commander. It is the loss which will be deeply felt throughout the wide circle of his acquaintances, and in all the section of our State where his name has become a household word; but next to yourselves there are none that realize so deeply or estimate so truly this bereavement as the regiment with which his public life has been associated, which it was his pride to command, which he led so gallantly in many battles, and whose interests were still near his heart even amid the wasting of disease and under the shadow of death.

Will you allow, therefore, the surviving comrades of our departed commander to offer to you our condolence and sincere sympathy in this irreparable loss, and to express our hope that you may be sustained by the grace of God and the comforts of His Gospel. It will be no slight alleviation of sorrow to reflect on the singleness of purpose and the patriotic devotion which characterized the deceased. He truly lived for his country, and as truly for her he died; and when the time shall come which he was delighted to anticipate, when our national flag shall wave unchallenged in every portion of our land, it will be seen he did not die in vain.

Feeling that the tie which binds us to the departed is second only to that of his immediate friends, we desire to give some permanent expression of the affectionate remembrance in which we hold him, and would therefore earnestly request to be allowed the privilege of erecting the monument over his grave. To this purpose a liberal subscription has already been commenced, and should your consent be given our committee will be glad to consult with you in all matters of detail, and erection will be completed as rapidly as the peculiar exigencies of our service will admit.

On behalf of the Regiment,

James B. McNeal,  
Capt. 36<sup>th</sup> Ills. Infantry Vols.,  
Commanding Reg't.  
Chas. F. Case, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. and Adjt.

AB, 8-25-1864

MONUMENT TO COL. SILAS MILLER.

The letter of the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment to the bereaved relatives of the deceased Colonel, published in another column, will be read by all. The request of the gallant boys, in particular form, is also expressed in the following letter published in the *Chicago Journal* on Tuesday:

Atlanta, Ga. August 13, 1864.

To the Editors of the *Chicago Evening Journal*:

The regiment so long under the command of this brave and lamented officer having decided to erect a suitable monument over his grave, all officers and men who are now or ever have been connected with the "old 36<sup>th</sup>," are invited to share in the good work, and to forward their names and subscriptions at once to any of the following gentlemen appointed to receive them:

Capt. A. Longworth, Provost Marshal, Joliet; Capt. E. P. Cass, Lisbon, Kendall County; Capt. M. B. Baldwin, Elgin; Lt. Trumbell, Monmouth; Dr. D. W. Young, Aurora, or to Mix and Miller, Bankers, Aurora.

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

William M. Haigh  
Chaplain 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois.

The boys who valiantly risk their lives in the field should not be suffered to do this thing alone. We, whose fortunes and comfort the 36<sup>th</sup> have contributed to preserve, should also aid in the matter. No further appeal is needed – none will dissent – we all want a monument to Col. Miller erected in our Park.

**Siege of Atlanta, July 22 thru August 25**

**Flank movement on Jonesboro, Georgia, August 25-30, 1864**

WS, 9-17-1864

## FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY VETERANS

Marietta, August 31, 1863(4)

EDITOR SENTINEL:

Time developes many strange things, but until recently I never knew that such a generous people inhabit the Southern States. Unless forced to do so they will not leave Atlanta, but if necessary for their safety they will retire slowly toward the Gulf, and whenever we discover our error, and wish to retrace our steps, they are ready to forgive us and let us go home.

A few evenings since, I went to Marietta, to visit the 15<sup>th</sup> Regiment Illinois Volunteers. I got to their camp about 10 o'clock at night. Nearly all of the boys were out on the road, and the few I saw were just starting. They were, I thought, in exuberant spirits, considering the load under which they were laboring. Bela Darral, had, I think, the load on his back that was packed for a wagon or pack mule. I talked with them a while, congratulating them on their success in getting into the service for another three years, and having a permanent job. And as they went off through the woods on that dark, rainy night, I leaned against a tree and watched them. The gentle breezes wafted their "chin music" back to me, and I soliloquized, "truly, a veteran soldier often enjoys perfect bliss."

I have not seen the company since the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I have been considerably indisposed of late, and I do not believe a knowledge of the fact that a hostile foe still exists that would shoot to kill, will hasten my recovery. Since I have been in the hospital I have not been short of bread, nor forced to sleep in the ditches with the "blue waves rolling over me," as they have so often in this campaign during a refreshing shower.

In connection with my trip to Marietta, I forgot to mention that I saw my old friend, George Austin, now Quartermaster of the 15<sup>th</sup>. I found him well, but full of his dry jokes. I must say, that I think him exceedingly dry, but a generous provider. With so competent an officer for Quartermaster, they must live high. I will not take space to enumerate all the tempting viands placed before me at breakfast. Fried eggs, beef steak, hot rolls, mocha, etc., were the first course. Atlanta is not taken yet, but in the course of a few days I think we will possess that famous place. Our shells, playing the part of incendiaries, have burned the place terribly. Some whole blocks have been burned.

Captain Chittenden has returned to the company, but looks very poorly.

Sinbad.

**Battle of Jonesboro, August 31 thru September 1**

## Lovejoy Station, September 2-6

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of September the 36<sup>th</sup> entered the desolate streets of Atlanta in triumph. Hood and his army had abandoned the city. Hoping to draw Sherman away from the deep South, he turned back toward Tennessee to threaten the Union rear.

*KCR, 9-8-1864*

### NATIONAL UNION TICKET

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For President  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
Of Illinois  
&  
For Vice President  
ANDREW JOHNSON,  
Of Tennessee

### Republican State Ticket

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For Governor –	Richard J. Oglesby
Lieutenant Governor –	William Bross
Secretary of State –	Sharon Tyndale
Auditor –	Q. H. Miner
Treasurer –	James L. Beveridge
Supt Public Inst. –	Newton Bateman
Congressman at Large –	S. W. Moulton

Presidential Electors  
*State at Large*

John Dougherty, of Union  
Francis A. Hoffman, of DuPage  
Benjamin M. Prentiss, of Adams,

*Sixth District*  
W. T. Hopkins, of Grundy.

*KCR, 9-8-1864*

LOOK OUT FOR THE DRAFT!

### QUOTA OF KENDALL COUNTY

Through the kindness of Capt. Abel Longworth, Provost Marshall 6<sup>th</sup> District of Illinois, we have received the quota of this County and each sub-district. It is official!

*Big Grove and Lisbon.* Total quota, 344; total credit, 314; deficit, 30.

*Kendall and Fox.* Quota, 289; credit, 241; deficit, 48.

*Bristol and Little Rock.* Quota, 329; credit, 309; deficit, 20.

*Oswego.* Quota, 197; credit, 212; Excess 15. Good!

*Na-au-way and Seward.* Quota, 215; credit, 165; deficit 50.

Total Quota of County, 1374; total credit, 1241; excess in one town, 15; deficit in eight towns, 148.

The 6<sup>th</sup> District is behind in all 2439.

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### \$300 COUNTY BOUNTY

The Supervisors of this county held a special meeting on Monday, to take into consideration the raising of our quota under the present call for troops, and like men, offer a bounty of \$300 for recruits. This, with the Government bounty, makes the handsome sum of \$600. Who will take it? We have about ten days more before the draft, shall we fill our quota by volunteering? The war cannot last more than another year, and we think not that long. Walk up and take your money, and let little "little Kendall" come in out of the draft.

*WS, 9-28-1864*

### ANOTHER SOLDIER GONE

Office Gen'l Field Hospl,  
Vining's Station, Ga., Sept 1.

Miss VanNess:

I hope that mine shall not be the first announcement you shall have of the terrible calamity that has befallen your domestic circle. The Angel of Death has descended and taken from our midst your brother, Breat, whom you so patriotically entrusted to the care of our Heavenly Father, in defense of our national liberty.

A few hours previous to his death, he sent for me. I went immediately, and found him much worse than in the morning. He took my hand and said: "Myron, I feel that I am about to die." I told him not to be discouraged, that he might soon be up again. "I am not discouraged, but I feel that I have not long to live." I thought at all times we should be prepared to die. He thought he was not prepared, and I sent for a Chaplain, but could not obtain one at the time. He took my hand and said: "Myron, I would like to live for my poor old mother, such a good mother, for my dear brother and sisters; they are not rich, and need my assistance." I replied, "The righteous are never forsaken." "But I am not afraid to die, though I have been ungrateful to God; I have never lived a Christian life, but I am ready to go." I told him it was never too late for repentance. After dark I found a Chaplain, Rev. Mr. McCray, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Kentucky Volunteers. He was very glad. After a few appropriate remarks, he wished him to pray. I feel that that prayer, offered up in the tent of a hospital, on ground consecrated by the blood of brave men who fought and fell there, surrounded by crippled, maimed, sick and dying soldiers, reached the Throne of Grace; and that intercession from that good man, he told me, made him feel better, and that he felt prepared to die.

Yours in sympathy, Myron D. Kent.

*KCR, 9-29-1864*

MISCELLANEOUS  
CORRESPONDENCE

Near Atlanta, August 28<sup>th</sup>.

“Requiecent won in pace,” would be a very appropriate motto for this army. We left our position two mile northeast of Atlanta and here we remained in status quo a little over a month, on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst, about 11 o’clock at night, and after two days rapid marching reached this point – about eleven miles southwest of Atlanta. The Army of the Tennessee is in possession of the Eastpoint and Montgomery Railroad. The troops are still on the go, and we will start very soon. The weather is remarkably warm, and several of the soldiers in our brigade died the day before yesterday from the effects of *coup de tollet*. The boys were very glad to leave these tiresome old breastworks and get out into the country air; but as to being pushed through at a 2.40 rate, with the thermometer at a hundred – well they don’t “hanker arter” such exercise. However it is a very good remedy for obesity, as it takes off the superfluous.

*August 29<sup>th</sup>*, -- I did not have time to finish my letter on the 28<sup>th</sup>, as we did start at the appointed hour – a punctuality very seldom met in the army. We are now going for the Macon and Atlanta Railroad, which if we capture, will compel the enemy to evacuate the “Gate City,” or give us battle in open field – a problem yet to be solved. It is reported that our force will endeavor to strike the railroad thirty six miles south of the city. The boys are all in fine spirits and have great confidence in General Sherman.

Col. Gibson, who in Gen. Willrich’s absence commanded our brigade, has gone home and we are sorry to lose him as he was such an excellent officer and so good a man. Col. C. T. Hotchkins, 89<sup>th</sup> Illinois, now commands the brigade. Gen. August Willich commands the military affairs of Cincinnati and Covington, his wounds prohibiting him from active field service.

I saw Cavasso Reeder, of the 36<sup>th</sup> yesterday, he says the non-veterans of that regiment will start for the North in twenty-six days.

Company H, of this regiment, are all well. John Buffham, who was wounded on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May, rejoined the company night before last. Capt. Hobbs is well and hearty. Corporal Hobbs is acting Commissary Sergeant at Nashville. Sergt. J. K. Young is in the rear, sick. John Whitehead and Chas. Spry are in Chattanooga, having been slightly wounded about a week ago.

“R.”

**Pursuit of Hood into Alabama, October 1-26**

Sherman did not rise to Hoods bait. Instead of sending his entire force after Hood, Sherman sent a large force under Thomas to secure Nashville and a smaller one under General John Schofield to worry Hood. The rest of his force he would march to the sea, leaving a smoking trail of pillage and destruction behind him. The 36<sup>th</sup> was part of Schofield's detachment. It left Atlanta on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October to screen Hood.

The regimental commander was once again Porter Olson. Through northern Georgia and Alabama and up into Tennessee went the Fox River Regiment, in one continuous forced march.

*GCH, 10-5-1864*

Some of the old 36<sup>th</sup> regiment returned to their homes on Saturday last, their term of service having expired. For three years they have been in active service, and now come back to us to enjoy that peace, the promise of which is already discernable in the signs of the times, with the satisfaction of knowing that their brave deeds have contributed to that glorious result. The sight of their familiar countenances will gladden the hearts and quicken the pulses in many a household, and from many a family altar will ascend thanksgiving and praise for their preservation and safe return. Some who went out with them, buoyant in the hope of brilliant military career have met a heroic death, and to some eyes the announcement of the veteran's return will bring a tear of sympathy and sorrow for those who come not home.

*EG, 10-12-1864*

#### THE EVIDENCE ACCUMULATES

Major George Sherman writes to his father that he received 2000 secesh prisoners within a short time, and they are all for McClellan, and all say "if Lincoln is reelected, the South must give up. Their only hope now is on the Peace Party of the north. If McClellan is elected the Southern Confederacy will be reorganized, and their independence acknowledged."

A short way to peace is the reelection of Abraham Lincoln and the

squelching of the party that declares the war a failure. Let no patriot or true Union man hesitate. The paths of duty, of honor, of safety, lie in the same direction.

*EG, 10-12-1864*

### THE OLD 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT

Mr. Editor: -- Thinking that it would prove of interest to the friends of the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment, or as it was called the "Fox River Regiment," I will give some items of their history during the past three years.

The regiment served nearly thirty eight months, and has always been in the front. They have served in seven different States of the Confederacy. They have passed twelve heavy battles, besides a great number of severe skirmishes. The losses during the past three years are as follows:

Killed in battle	97
Died of disease	52
Died of wounds	74
Discharged on account of wounds	56
Discharged on account of disease	110
Deserted	28
Transferred	44
Wounded in battle	486
Officers resigned	31
Mustered out in disgrace	2
Enlisted men promoted and have rec'd comm.	47

As most of the friends of the regiment are aware, their original three years expired the 22<sup>nd</sup> of last month. On that day the non-veterans of the regiment were mustered out at Atlanta, Ga., at which time the following address was read to them:

Headquarters 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vol. Inf.  
Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1864.

*To the Non-Veterans of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ill.*

My Friends and Former Comrades:

You will soon be at home. You will be well received by the loyal people of our State. Three years ago you were mustered into the service of the United States.

That term of service has expired. I have not time, nor is it desirable now, to recount the deeds, labors and trials which make up the history of the regiment, of which you have formed an honorable part. But as I bid you good bye, there crowds upon my memory the scenes of common hardships, and common dangers, the privations of the march, and the dangers of the battlefield we have shared together. Your achievements have formed part of our history as a regiment; a history, which, if you remain true to your manhood and the interests of humanity, you will through life regard with feelings of profound satisfaction.

As you go north there is entrusted to your keeping, not only your own character and good name, but ours also. I may express the wish, that by patience and sobriety, and the cultivation of every manly virtue, you will deserve the name of the defenders of a free people. Let no unworthy act of yours obscure the bright record of your noble deeds. Let it not be said that you are the *ignoble* scions of a worthy race, but rather that you are the noble sons of noble sires. We believe that we shall not be disappointed in you.

And now let me assure you that we who are left behind, on our part, will try and never give you cause to be ashamed to the old 36<sup>th</sup>. We will try and see to it, that the flag you have followed shall *never* be disgraced, and whether on the field or in the midnight watch, your country's righteous cause shall not suffer at our hands. We will with vigilance and courage meet the enemy, with patience and fidelity perform the work assigned us.

You can tell our friends, that we are in favor of peace, but that it is an honorable peace we want, and that none other would be acceptable to the patriotic, brave and victorious army.

I wish to ask you, while we are fighting the battles of the country on southern soil, if you will labor for the interests of our cause at home? Will you use your influence and vote for the men and money to help us complete the work we have to do, and in which you have borne so nobly a part? Will you be ready to help the constituted authorities enforce the laws of the land, to fill our depleted regiments with those who have not done their duty as we have done?

Will you continue true to the principles and vindicate the honor of our fallen comrades, whose remains lie buried on every field, from Arkansas border to the center of Georgia.

Pea Ridge, Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Resaca, Adairsville, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta and Jonesboro ! Will you hold sacred the memory of those whose names are worthy to be classed with that of John Hampden and Algernon Sidney? I know the response of every generous and patriotic man. It is, we will go for men and means to support the government and help you.

It is a significant fact, and frequently remarked, that those who have done

their duty the best, who have been brave and faithful soldiers, are the most patriotic, and in every way the warmest supporters of the government. They have nothing to regret, and are justly proud of their service. With a man who has not performed his duty it is otherwise. He wished to find fault with somebody, so he lays the blame to the army or the government, and as the interest of the two cannot be separated, he becomes disloyal.

Take an illustrious example: Gen. Grant, Gen. Sherman, Admiral Farragut and Gen. Phil. Sheridan are for us. Gen. Buell, Fitz John Porter, (a convicted traitor) and Gen. McClellan are against us.

Permit me to suggest to you to be careful of your hard earned wages. It is the fruit of long months of hard labor, and should be invested, so as to be of real service to you.

In conclusion, I believe if the army does its duty (and I cannot doubt that it will,) and if the non-veterans who go home from the army do theirs, that the day is not far distant when an honorable peace will smile upon our land, and some of us at least will be permitted to visit you in the peaceful pursuits of civil life.

Accept the best wishes for your prosperity and welfare, of your former commanding officer.

Porter C. Olson,  
Lieut. Col. Comd'g 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vol. Inf.

After listening to this, three rousing cheers were given for our Lieut. Colonel and our brave and gallant officers; also three cheers for our veterans who are still in the field. The men who are mustered out endorse the sentiments of the address almost to a man.

A (Late) Member.

*KCR, 10-27-1864*

#### KENDALL COUNTY OUT OF THE DRAFT.

We are told by Mr. Daniel G. Johnson that Kendall is the banner county in the district, being the only one that has furnished its quota without drafting. Well done "Little K." To be sure it has cost some labor and some money to do this, but our people are prosperous and can soon pay off their indebtedness.

WS, 11-30-1864

FROM THE OLD 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS

Camp 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Inft. Vol's.  
Athens, Tenn., Nov. 3d, 1864.

EDITOR SENTINEL:

Dear Sir: Knowing that Sinbad, your regular correspondent, is absent from the Regiment, and having a desire that your readers should know the political standing of the Regiment, and the pride we have in our record, both in a military and political point of view; I have concluded to send you a short communication, to be used as you may think proper.

After the campaign of Atlanta was finished by the battle of Jonesboro, our Regiment, in common with the balance of the army, returned to Atlanta, and went into camp as we supposed, for a short rest, and to replenish our stock of bread and bullets, preparatory to another campaign in the direction of Macon. But these pleasant dreams were destroyed by the rebel general Hood's movement around our army; to counteract which our whole corps (4<sup>th</sup> Army Corps) received orders to go to Chattanooga, and on our way up the railroad, we had the fortune to see the old 15<sup>th</sup> Regiment, for the first time since the commencement of the Arkansas campaign, and little did we think that we would scarcely get away before Mr. Confederacy would come along and take them out of the wet, or in soldier parlance "jerk them bald headed;" but so it happened and they had to go to Key's company, with a good many of the old 36<sup>th</sup>, who have been unfortunate in getting hurt and captured.

After reaching Chattanooga, we were sent to the assistance of the negro garrison at Dalton, who were getting a little weak in the knees, and after staying there a short time, their courage began to revive, and we returned to Chattanooga, only in time to march to the main army, then encamped on the Coosa River with their base of supplies at Rome Georgia. Then came the rumor that Hood was marching into West Tennessee, and that General Thomas was organizing an army to oppose him, and that the 4<sup>th</sup> Corps was ordered to report to Thomas at Chattanooga and the balance of the army of the Cumberland should be transferred to the armies of the Ohio and Tennessee; scarcely had the rumor gained circulation when the order was given for the corps to report to General Thomas, and in two days we were at the foot of Lookout Mountain. Hood's cavalry had torn up the Huntsville Railroad between us and Nashville, causing us to march to Athens, where we arrived after a severe march through mud and rain, and that night camped on a low wet place of ground, where it was impossible to make a dry bed

even if it would cease raining, but that was not in the programme, and the men had to remain up nearly all night drying and warming one side while the other took the wetting, and if this was not the time to beat a man's patriotism and love of peace, (with the little conveniences called home, dry beds, good wholesome food, and enough of that thrown in), than I cannot be allowed to judge, and it was under those circumstances precisely, that some one proposed that a vote should be taken for President, and twas scarcely sooner said than done, for in twenty minutes the ballot was ready to be counted, which was done in the presence of the field and line officers of the Regiment, each man writing the name of his candidate upon a small slip of paper, which he folded and threw into a hat used for a ballot box for his company, (a separate hat being used for each company, to prevent two votes being cast by the same individual, should anyone feel so disposed.) The vote stood as follows: Number of officers and men present for rations were 120. Number for Lincoln and Johnson, 120. One man writing Butler's name upon the back of his ticket, at the same time placing Lincoln and Johnson upon the face of it. The 9<sup>th</sup> Indiana voted as follows: Lincoln and Johnson, 272. McClellan, 1.

The 44<sup>th</sup> Illinois cast but four (4) votes for the great "peace at any price" candidate, and as we stand ahead of any regimental vote yet published, I see no reason why we may not boast.

Query. Are those the majorities claimed for McClellan in the army by New York World, Chicago Times, and other journals of the same persuasion? If so, let them have them from every quarter, for they will prove to be the feather under which their humpedback camel will go down, not to be heard from again until he makes demand for some of the Lincoln "greenback" with which to pay his board and washing for all these months of idleness, and another name added to the list of Arnolds and Buchannans, (George B. McClellan.)

The boys from McHenry County, are all well, and determined as ever not to "give it up so Mr. Brown."

The boys wish me to say that Sentinels, like greenbacks must be seen to be appreciated, and are far preferable to "graybacks" of any description. There are but two veterans yet to be mustered out, Jerome C Ford, of Algonquin, and Cornelius VanHess of Alden, and they would have been out but for the late movement of the army.

Paymasters expected before this time next year.

Yours ever. Veteran, Co. "H"

## THE ELECTION

As far as we have heard from the returns of the different States, Mr. Lincoln and the Union ticket is elected by a large majority. Illinois has gone Union 20,000 majority, and we have gained five or six members for congress. The United States Senate and Legislature will be Union, and Illinois will be redeemed from all sympathy with the peace party. Most nobly have our Union men worked and most nobly have they been rewarded. We have no time to publish more in this paper, but next week we expect to get out our big gun and fire a salute for Lincoln and Johnson, our President and Vice President.

### **Nashville Campaign, November & December, 1864**

#### **Columbia, Duck River, November 24-27**

#### **Spring Hill, Tennessee, November 29**

After a botched attempt to trap Schofield at Spring Hill, where the 36<sup>th</sup> came up against the legendary cavalry of Nathan Bedford Forrest, Hood had one last chance to stop him before he joined Thomas already at Nashville. That chance was at Franklin, near a bend in the Harpeth River.

### **Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, November 30, 1864**

On the last day of November, Hood ordered an assault against Schofield's trenchworks in the gathering gloom of an autumn twilight.

At its widest extent, the Confederate infantry had to cross two miles of open countryside.

The 36<sup>th</sup> was attached to the brigade of Emerson Opdyke which had been ordered out in front of the Union line by General George D. Wagner, division commander.

There, along with the other two brigades in the division, they were supposed to act as look outs. But Opdyke thought such naked exposure suicidal and disobeyed his orders. While the other two brigades bore the brunt of the gray onslaught, Opdyke's men, along with the Fox River Regiment, fell back to a position near the Carter House, a southern plantation within the Union earthworks. The men took cover behind a fence just back of the servant cottages.

The other two brigades were caught in the open and forced to run for their lives as the Confederate Army came spilling over the earthworks. The troops in the Union main line had to hold their fire at first for fear of hitting their fleeing comrades.

But the same spontaneous combustion that had swept through the Army of the Cumberland at Missionary Ridge ignited Opdyke's brigade. Once again, without anybody in particular ordering it, a great body of men leaped forward with a shout into the very face of the enemy. Opdyke actually tried to stop it, wildly galloping about and waving his pistol. But nothing could stop it. The whole brigade, including the 36<sup>th</sup>, poured into the trenches in front of the Carter House. In some places the Union line was five ranks deep, with those in the rear passing freshly loaded rifles to those in front.

The attacking Confederates were themselves funneled in so tightly that it was hard to miss. As one Yankee sergeant put it, "Our boys just shot them like hogs."

When the color sergeant of the 36<sup>th</sup> was struck, the flag was taken up by another sergeant, who was shot down as well. Finally, it was clutched by Private Charles W. Sears of Aurora, who wrested it from the hands of an attacking Confederate, exclaiming, "No you don't, not unless you take me with you"!

The regimental commander, Porter Olson, was fatally wounded early in the fight. He was born away on a shutter ripped from one of the windows of the Carter house. "Oh help me Lord"! he moaned, and then he died.

The Confederates had by far the worst of it, being the attackers. Six of their generals were to perish in that charge, including Pat Cleburne. He went down in front of the 36<sup>th</sup>, some nameless infantryman from the Fox River Regiment had slain the "Stonewall of the West".

With Captain J. B. McNeil assuming temporary command, the 36<sup>th</sup> resumed its role as rear guard of Schofield's detachment, being the last regiment to cross the Harpeth on that ghastly 30<sup>th</sup> of November.

## THE 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS AT THE BATTLE OF FRANKLIN, TENN.

Camp 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry  
Nashville Tenn., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> 64.

EDITOR SENTINEL:

(first four lines obscured)

I propose telling you who our suffering heroes are.

The little history making, of which I speak, took place at Franklin, Tennessee, in the shape of a huge old battle between the whole of Hood's army, and five Divisions of our forces under General Schofield.

The rebel General undertook to strike our forces, while scattered along the Huntsville Railroad, and the Tennessee River, and "gobble" us up by detail. But the process of concentration commenced just a day or two too soon for his plan, but not soon enough for our complete success.

On the night of the 28<sup>th</sup> of November, and afternoon of the 29<sup>th</sup>, while we were crossing our immense wagon trains and troops over Duck River at Columbia, the rebel army were making a forced march on Spring Hill, a small place about eleven miles in our rear, directly on our lines of retreat, and as soon as this was known, our division, (the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Corps,) was hurried forward to prevent their occupying the road, and as we double quicked into one side of the town, the advance of the rebel forces charged on the other side; but as they happened to be Cavalry, we soon snubbed them, and then the battle commenced in good earnest. But our division held its own, and the pike against great odds, until nightfall, and during the quiet of the night our train and troops passed on toward Nashville in safety, and by day light our Brigade, acting as rear guard, was once more on the retreat; but the rebel General well knew that he had to cross the Harpeth River, only eleven miles distant, and that we would have to give him battle, in order to save our train, and he laid his calculations well, for although the advance division commenced fortifying the moment they arrived, the rear guard was scarcely within the works, than their dispositions for battle were made, and they pushed forward in one dense mass, even without skirmishers, but they found the "Yanks" prepared for them.

The town of Franklin is situated in a sharp bend of the Little Harpeth River, and our lines of work were constructed across the neck of land, each flank resting on the river above and below the town, and the troops were all in their places, except our Brigade, which being rear guard, was allowed to form in the rear, and make coffee and rest ere the struggle commenced, and we had hardly finished our coffee, when our entire line was enveloped in the blaze of battle. But the weight of the assault, fell upon the center of our line, where there were a large number of conscripts, who broke and fled after fighting but a few minutes, and left the works

in possession of the rebs. O! what, a crisis. What a time and place for a rout; had it continued but a few minutes longer, not a regiment could have been saved, and it was at a critical moment, that General Stanley rushed up to Colonel Opdyke, commanding our Brigade, and called upon him to charge, and retake the works and save the army, and I tell you that every officer and man seemed to realize that the fate of the nation rested upon him, for there was no wavering, but 'twas forward, straight forward, and it seemed as though a struggle of years was crowded into that short hour. But the day was ours, and every reb was killed or captured that had entered the works, and although the battle lasted until far into the night, they did not again possess any part of the line. Our loss in the action, was three officers, and sixty nine men, viz; Colonel P. C. Olson, commanding regiment, killed. Captain G. G. Biddulph, severely wounded in head. Adjutant C. F. Chase, amputation of right leg.

A good many of the captured were jerked over into Dixie, while fighting hand to hand over the works. Of the McHenry County boys who were wounded, was Orderly Sergeant David Hartman, from Ridgefield, who has been present upon every battle and skirmish line, with the old regiment, and who is noted for his courage and endurance, and in this action, although shot through the right breast and lung, attempted to charge with the regiment over the works, and when he found that he was unable to do it, he utterly refused to go back, until he knew the results, although I saw Captain Chittenden take his things from him, and urge him to go. Sergeant Day Elmore was again seriously wounded and captured; poor boy, brave and reckless as ever; when the panic was at its height, he calmly fixed his bayonet, and halting sturdy old veterans who were turning their backs to the enemy for the first time, he cried, for shame, back to your posts or I will run you through, and in this manner did materially in saving the day. He was wounded through the left shoulder, and left with Dave in the Hospital at Franklin. Corporal Andrew J. Conro, was also seriously wounded in the head; Jack's numerous wounds will attest his fighting courage. He was left also. Corporal J. B. Agnew was also slightly wounded in the head. Sergeant George Peeler of Company "A", from Crystal Lake, was also severely wounded in head, but not captured. The balance of the killed and wounded, were recruits who joined the company about a week before the battle, and as none of them were from McHenry, I will not mention them. The fighting was very severe, some of their Generals and other minted officers being killed with the men in the very breastworks.

Our Brigade captured eight stands of colors, and retook a battery of eight guns.

That you may know that the above is true, and not brag, I will say, that General Thomas personally thanked the Brigade, and awarded the Brigade the praise of saving the army of the Cumberland.

Among the troops of A. J. Smith at this place, we find the 95<sup>th</sup> Illinois, who are shivering with cold, as they have refused “pup” tents, and are clamoring loudly for their wall tents, an item that has not been seen by troops in this department in over two years.

All quiet around Nashville at present, and everybody willing to have Hood make an assault whenever he pleases.

Yours as ever, Veteran.

*GCH, 12-14-1864*

The old 36<sup>th</sup> Reg. Ill. Vols. have again met with a heavy loss in the late engagement at Franklin. 76 in number are reported as either killed, wounded or missing. Among those killed; are Col. Oleson, of Kendall Co., and Capt. Bidolph. The only one from this county whom we have heard reported as killed is Henly Hoge, son of William Hoge of Nettle Creek.

*AB, 12-15-1864*

THIRTY-SIXTH AT FRANKLIN. – The following is a list of the casualties of the noble battleworn 36<sup>th</sup> at the battle of Franklin.

Porter C Olson, Lieut. Col. killed.

R. R. Crawford, killed.

James H. Ralston, Sergt. Killed.

Alfred Tomlin, Corp. killed

H. Hozne, killed.

A. Swickhart, killed.

G.C. Biddulph, in eye.

C. F. Case, Adj., leg amputated.

G. L. Peeler, Sergt, wounded.  
Chas. Olesirght, Corp. wounded.  
Henry B. Latham, Sergt, in shoulder.  
Christian Zimmer, Sergt., bowels.  
John Kenan, thigh.  
Corp. W. R. Yale, wounded.  
Cusper Comas. Wounded.  
Samuel Marwell, wounded.  
Ezekiel Wimmer, wounded.  
James Renfew, wounded.  
J. C. Wright, wounded.  
H. P. Donnel, wounded.  
Wilmer Kinder, thigh, severe.  
Edward Larz, shoulder.  
David M. Patten, slight.  
David A. Patker, wounded.  
Serg. T. P. Pitton, wounded.  
Christ Ratterman, wounded.  
Michael Divine, wounded.  
James C. Stokes, wounded.  
G. W. Lannagan, wounded.  
A. J. Brennan, wounded.  
Joseph Markham, wounded.  
James J. Perkins, wounded.  
G. W. Morgan, wounded.  
John Smith, wounded.  
Chas. Hoptonstall, wounded.  
John Falral, wounded.  
Serg. David Kartman, wounded.  
Serg. Day Elmore, severe.  
Corp. Jackson Conroe, wounded.  
L. B. Agnew, wounded.  
Serg. Abram Wornley, wounded.  
G. Shernelberger, I.  
Corp. Daniel P. Hammond, K, face.  
Daniel Howard, left shoulder.  
J. P. Leffel, left shoulder.  
Geo. M. Scales, arm.  
Wm. P. McBride, both feet.

Corp. O. D. Shaw, missing.  
L. Hurr, missing.  
J. R. Caldwell, missing.  
Wm. A. Rogers, missing.  
James M. Black, missing.  
Abram M. Ameran, missing.  
Ichabod Leigh, missing.  
Thomas Ragan, missing.  
Robert Russel, missing.  
Corp. John J. Jordan, missing.  
Frederick Shully, missing.  
Thomas Ridgeway, missing.  
Elias Bartlett, missing.  
John Newmyre, H, missing.  
France, I, missing.  
Sergt. J. M. Gorden, K, missing.  
Hiram Bogordis, K, missing.  
Ed. Smith, K, missing.  
John Serane, K, missing.

### **Battle of Nashville, December 15-16, 1864**

In the midst of a winter ice storm, George Thomas lifted the siege of the city with a series of brilliant flanking attacks against Hood's desolate scare crow army. Colonel L. P. Holden of the 88<sup>th</sup> Illinois was picked to succeed McNeil in command of the 36<sup>th</sup>, and the regiment participated in the skirmish line of Wood's 4<sup>th</sup> corps as it advanced into battle. After the slaughter at Franklin, Southern morale had collapsed. The 36<sup>th</sup> surrounded a battery of artillery and the entire 20<sup>th</sup> Alabama infantry, all of whom surrendered without a fight.

*WS, 12-28-1864*

THE OLD 36<sup>th</sup>. The veteran 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry won honors in the recent battle between Thomas and Hood. A letter from Nashville, states that the regiment left Nashville on the 15<sup>th</sup>, skirmishing nearly all that day, and at night charged the enemy's works and captured two pieces of artillery and a large number of prisoners. Lieut. Hall, of the 36<sup>th</sup>, received the credit of the capture. Chas. M. Chase, of Co. E, also of this regiment, captured a beautiful battle flag. The 36<sup>th</sup> lost two men killed and wounded during the day's engagement. Lieut. Bebee, of Co. D, was wounded in the arm.

### **Pursuit of Hood to Tennessee River, December 17-28**

The advance resumed the next day, with the 36<sup>th</sup> in reserve. Hood's legions had been shattered. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, the 36<sup>th</sup> came across rebel artillery pieces that had been dumped into the Duck River, so swift had been the disordered rout of the enemy.

*KCR, 12-22-1864*

EXCHANGED. – Joseph Haigh and W. Ward, of the 89<sup>th</sup>, and Mr. Lloyd of the 36<sup>th</sup>, have been exchanged and are at Annapolis. They are so reduced, however by sickness and exposure as to be unable to come home. Their confinement at Andersonville has almost killed them.

Chaplain Haigh has gone to Annapolis to see his brother Joseph, whom, it is thought cannot live.

Can those rebels have human hearts, and treat their fellow man with so much cruelty?

*KCR, 12-22-1864*

[From the Grundy Co. Herald.]  
LIEUT. COLONEL OLSON

The subject of this sketch came to his death in the late engagement at Franklin, Tenn., while at the head of his regiment, the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois.

The breaking out of the rebellion found him engaged as teacher of the academy at Lisbon, in Kendall County. So soon as the President, in the month of April, 1861, issued his call for seventy- five thousand troops, the young men of Kendall County hastened to organize themselves into companies, and to tender their services to the Government. Olson proved active and efficient in this as he had in every patriotic work, and was only deterred from going immediately in person into the field by his engagement as teacher, which would keep him at home until July following.

The President having soon after made another call for volunteers, Olson entered heartily into the work of recruiting, and soon succeeded in raising a company from the Southern portion of Kendall and Northern portion of La Salle County, with which he joined the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment, then organizing. In August following, the 36<sup>th</sup> was called from Aurora, its place of temporary encampment, to the active scenes and dangers of the field; and from that period to the present, with few exceptions, the regiment has been in uninterrupted service, participating in nearly all the great battles which have regaled the campaigns in the valley of the Mississippi.

Olson, in a little over a year from the time he entered the service, was promoted from a Captaincy to the office which he so ably filled at the time of his death. From the time of his promotion till the casualties of war overtook him, he was constantly in command of his regiment, his colonel having been assigned to other duties, and the death of his Colonel (the late Silas Miller) devolved upon him the entire responsibility of the regimental command.

As a soldier Olson was never known to fail in the most praiseworthy discharge of his duties, always equaling and not infrequently surpassing the expectations of his superiors in command. At the post where duty called him, and in the thickest of the fight, he participated in all those engagements in which the 36<sup>th</sup>, in common with all the Illinois regiments engaged, has won an elevated place in the annals of military renown. His ability and faithful attention to the duties of his office recommended him to his superior officers as a suitable person for detached service of a delicate and responsible character, to the performance of which he was often called. Modest, brave, cool, even in the awful excitement of battle, and generous and kind, he had won largely upon the best affections of his men and officers, and many a heart felt regret at his death have they expressed.

Olson, at the time of his death had not attained the meridian of life, but with

him perish all those noble plans, and warm sympathies, and generous hopes of his being, which a long and intimate friendship between himself and the writer enabled the latter to see and appreciate.

This noble young man is no more! He gave his life to his country! His career was glorious, but too brief! Truly, "The path of glory leads but to the grave."

O.

1865

*GCH, 1-5-1865*

Peter Bradt and Lewis Jones of Company G 36<sup>th</sup> Regt. Ill. Vol., who have been in the hands of the rebels in Georgia, as prisoners of war for the last fifteen months, have just returned to Morris. They have not been exchanged but paroled. During the time of their captivity they were first confined at Andersonville, afterwards they were removed to Florence, and from that place they were sent to Charleston, where they were released on parole. They bring information of some ten others belonging to different companies of the regiment who were paroled at the same time and have returned to their homes.

We also learn from them that Byron Streeter who enlisted in the regiment from this place when the 36<sup>th</sup> were mustered in as veterans, was in prison at Florence, but was too feeble to be sent to Charleston when they were. They think that unless Streeter is paroled or exchanged soon, he will not live through the winter.

*KCR, 1-12-1865*

#### AURORA ITEMS

We are most sincerely happy to welcome back to "God's Country" many of our old soldier boys. We have been particularly to take by the hand Captain Frank Campbell, of the 36<sup>th</sup>, who has been for some time enjoying the princely hospitality of the rebels at Libby prison, and under fire at Charleston. The Captain has borne his confinement well, having been fortunate in finding for his immediate jailors,

some men in whom the traitorous fires had left a little of the milk of human kindness. Captain Frank will soon rejoin his regiment, and will probably take command with the rank of Lieut. Colonel, a position to which he is entitled by seniority and has earned by noble service and hard suffering. Capt. Merrill and Lieut. Sutherland, --- of the 36<sup>th</sup>, but now we believe are in town, reposing upon the laurels obtained in three years of hard service.

*Aurora Beacon.*

AB, 2-9-1865

### QUOTA FOR KANE COUNTY.

The accurate quota for the state of Illinois is not yet announced, and as a consequence, we are unable to say what that of our county, or the different towns will be. Below, however, we give such figures as we are able to obtain: and from them each person will be able to draw such facts as they can. At the time of the last draft our county was out of its clutches, and the quota required, and furnished, with overplus to be applied on the present call as follows:

	Quota	No. credited			
Big Rock	105	100	deficit	5	
Kaneville	115	126	surplus		11
Virgil	118	124	“	6	
Burlington	80	72	deficit	8	
Hampshire	97	130	surplus		33
Rutland	76	74	deficit	2	
Plato	94	100	surplus		15
Campton	94	94			
Blackberry	144	165	“	21	
Sugar Grove	106	106			
Aurora					
Outside city	192	204	surplus		12
1 <sup>st</sup> Ward	199	206	“	7	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward	334	345	“	11	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward	210	261	“	51	
4 <sup>th</sup> Ward	157	194	“	37	
Batavia	237	262	“		25

Geneva	131	154	“	23
St Charles	222	273	“	51
Elgin				
Outside city	110	128	“	18
1 <sup>st</sup> Ward	63	69	“	6
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward	39	41	“	2
3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward	56	61	“	5
4 <sup>th</sup> Ward	57	63	“	6
Dundee	178	200	“	12
3561				

Giving the county a total surplus of 349, as by the figures at the Provost Marshall's office, to apply on calls made subsequent to October, 1864. To the surpluses mentioned above, must be added the number of men enlisted since the date mentioned – but they are few.

By best authority obtained, Kane County, under the draft to take place on the 15<sup>th</sup>, is called upon for 600 men. The vote of Kane County is the only data we have for figuring as follows: the total Presidential vote cast was 5,752. Aurora cast 1,578, therefore must furnish about 169 men – upon which number she has a surplus credit of 118, leaving 42 men to raise. Batavia cast 331 votes, and has about 36 men to furnish, upon which she had credit for 25. Big Rock has 172 votes, and about 18 men to raise, with no surplus, her deficit under the last call having been made good. Blackberry cast 239 votes – 26 men due with 21 credits. Burlington 124 votes – 13 men, with no credits. Campton, 179 votes – 18 men, with no credits. Dundee, 342 votes – 38 men, with 12 credits. Elgin cast 777 votes, making her quota 84 men, with 37 credits, Geneva, 281 votes – giving 30 men with 24 credits. Hampshire 216 votes – 26 men, with thirty three credits. Kaneville 218 votes – 24 men with 11 credits. Plato, 178 votes – 18 men, with 15 credits. Rutland 184 votes – 19 men, no credits. Sugar Grove, 162 votes – 17 men, no credit. St Charles 432 votes – 47 men, and 51 credits. Virgil cast 229 votes – 24 men, with no credit.

When the quota is definitely announced, it will not, of course, comport with these figures, which are but rough estimates. They will however, show that men **MUST BE RAISED** – and but six days remain to do it in.

*AB, 2-9-1865*

SUBSTITUTES.

Otis & Palmer are prepared to furnish substitutes, or to fill the quota of any sub-district for the coming draft, at the lowest rates. Parties wishing substitutes should apply at once at their office, up stairs in Volentine & Rising's block. Also Substitutes and Volunteers wanted to whom the highest bounties will be paid.

34w.

### **Camped at Huntsville, Alabama until March, 1865**

The pursuit of Hood ended in Huntsville, Alabama, where the regiment went into camp on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, 1865, lingering until the end of March. Then it was shipped back to Chattanooga by rail.

*WS, 3-15-1865*

#### **FROM THE VETERAN 36<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS**

Camp 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vet. Vol. Inf'y,  
Huntsville, Ala., March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1865

**EDITOR SENTINEL:**

We wish through the columns of your paper to inform the people of McHenry County, that there is but a few boys left in the old 36<sup>th</sup>, that have an interest in McHenry County, and claim to have migrated formerly from that part of the globe, and expect at some future date to return again, should our lives be spared us, so we would not be entirely forgotten; but we are all better skilled in wielding the weapons of warfare than the pen, still a rude sketch now and then might be acceptable, taking it into consideration that it comes from a soldier.

At the present time, we are indulging in a few weeks of inactive service, and as yet, nothing indicates that we are to resume active operations for some time. The 4<sup>th</sup> Corp being the only infantry force now here, it devolves upon us to hold and keep possession of this country, so lately traversed by Hood and his flying battalions. With the exception of one Brigade, the corps is encamped in and around the city of Huntsville. The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 2d Division, of which the 36<sup>th</sup> forms

a part, is encamped about two miles west of town, and we have good comfortable winter quarters, and duties being light, we are having what the boys term "a bully good time."

There is but few of the old original members of Company "H" left, for the fortunes of war have made sad havoc in it's ranks, but what there is, still manifest a determination to be in at the death of the rebellion, which it is to be hoped is not far distant. There has been some promotions in the Company of late, which I will mention, as it may interest some of your readers that were once comrades with us. S. Z. Carver, to 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant; L. B. Agnew and Wm. Carl, to Sergeants; Charles B. Crawford and C. M. Kimplin, to Corporals.

We are now and then visited by a stray Sentinel, which is eagerly sought after and read by the boys, for all are glad to get news from home. But for a long time, we have seen nothing relating to Company "H," and we thought it about time it was heard from.

Not wishing to worry the patience of our readers longer, I will close by signing myself,

Respectfully Yours, "Lote."

### **Operations in East Tennessee, March 15 through April 22**

It was plain that the war was sputtering to an end. The Fox River Regiment was in camp in the vicinity of Chattanooga, at Blue Springs, Tennessee, when it heard that Lee had surrendered.

*GCH, 3-29-1865*

The dead revived, and the lost found. Byron Streeter, of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ill., of whose fate his friends have received the most conflicting reports, and had the greatest fears, made his appearance among us again on Saturday last, fresh from Andersonville and Florence, though not in a very fresh condition, physically speaking. For about eight months Mr. Streeter has enjoyed the hospitalities of the

Southern Chivalry, under which his generally round, plump proportions have shrunk into even less dimensions than that of a country editor. He was paroled at Goldsboro on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, reaching our lines on the 20<sup>th</sup> since which time he has been rapidly improving in health and flesh. His report of the treatment he received while in the hands of the rebels, fully confirms the statements so uniformly made by our escaped and exchanged prisoners.

*WS, 4-19-1865*

FROM THE VETERAN 36<sup>th</sup> ILL.

Blue Springs, Tenn., April 1<sup>st</sup>, 65.  
Camp 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Vet. Vol. Inft.

EDITOR SENTINEL:

Having for some time been expecting orders to leave our camp at Huntsville, we were therefore not much surprised, when on the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> ultimo, we were ordered to pack our household goods, and report to the depot where cars were in waiting to convey us to East Tennessee. We were soon ready, and bidding farewell to our log cabins, wended our way to the depot, where after the usual delay and unwinding of red tape, we were packed into box cars four deep, and taking as we hope our last look at Huntsville, were soon enroute for Knoxville, via Stephenson and Chattanooga. Passing through Stephenson, Chattanooga and Cleveland, we arrived at Knoxville on the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup>, where we remained until twelve o'clock the next day, when we again steamed out of Eastport and at twelve o'clock at night unloaded at Bull's Gap, fifty-five miles east of Knoxville, heartily sick and tired of rail roading. We met with no adventure worthy of note on the route, except an accident that happened soon after leaving Knoxville: a car was thrown from the track, severely wounding a Sergeant of the 24<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin. The road is in very bad condition and "smash ups" occur almost daily.

On the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst., we moved up the railroad about a mile and pitched our tents on a hill close to the railroad. Our baggage was brought up on the cars, and we had hardly got it packed up the hill to camp, when orders came to send it back to Knoxville, and prepare to march. Having done this, we were idly lounging around, when on the afternoon of the third, a loud and prolonged cheer burst forth from the regiment to the right of us; while wondering what it was for, an Orderly came dashing up with a dispatch from General Thomas, announcing that Richmond and Petersburg was ours. It was glorious news, and the boys made the hills and woods ring with their lusty cheers. On the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> we

broke camp and marched to this place, and were ordered to camp in order, as we would probably remain here two or three weeks. There is a few houses here, and I suppose the natives call it a town. We are now at work rebuilding the railroad that our cavalry destroyed last spring. The cars now come within four miles of us, and in a few days will run to this place, as the road is being rapidly rebuilt.

News from Grant and Sherman is good, and we begin to see our way through, and feel confident that the end draweth nigh.

Lieut. Sherwood having obtained a leave of absence is now on his way to McHenry County, to spend a few days with his friends. All the members present of Company "H," are in good health and spirits.

Respectfully yours, L.

### **Moved to Nashville and duty there until June**

There was one more tour of duty. For a final time, the paddle wheels churned southward, down the Mississippi, as the regiment went from Cairo to New Orleans.

*AB, 5-18-1865*

### **THE 36<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT**

A letter to us from Col. Campbell, of this regiment, under date of Nashville, May 13<sup>th</sup>, says:

"We are now camped out 4 miles from the city of Nashville, near the Scharlottee Pike, There are very few of the old boys left to tell the tale of the great rebellion. Many of them have been killed and buried in this State, and others went to a soldier's grave in Georgia and Alabama during the past two years campaigning. There is quite a lot of new men; the aggregate of the regiment is 460. There are but six men sick of this number. I learn most of the line officers in the regiment have been promoted from sergeants since I was captured. George W. Mossman has been commissioned and mustered as Major of the regiment, Warren Massy as Adjutant, and Lieut Southworth as regimental Quartermaster. They are good men. We have a splendid camp. We expect to be mustered out sometime in the fall. My regards to all the friends."

## **Moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, June 15-23**

Phil Sheridan had been placed in charge of the Union Army of Occupation in the Crescent City, and wanted his beloved 36<sup>th</sup> to be with him.

*AB, 7-27-1865*

### **FROM THE 36<sup>th</sup>**

The 36<sup>th</sup> regiment is now in New Orleans on duty at Sheridan's headquarters. The remain of their corps goes to San Antonio, Texas. The regiment arrived at New Orleans on the 23<sup>rd</sup> since which time there has been but little sick among the men. Campbell was commissioned Colonel on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May last. Officers of the regiment now are, Mossman, Major; Massey, Adjutant; Southworth, Quartermaster; Hatch, Surgeon. Captains, Company A, Kelly, Company B, Dugan; C, Wilson, now Division mustering Officer; D, Birch; E, Hemmenway; F, Watson; G. Dispent; H, Dispent; I, Ferris; K, Hoggue. All young and efficient officers.

## **Transferred to the Department of Texas from August to September, 1865**

## **Duty at Headquarters of General P. H. Sheridan, Commanding Department of the Gulf, to October, 1865**

The regiment was first stationed at Camp Chalmette, on the old battlefield where Andrew Jackson had defeated the British in the war of 1812. But it was later moved into the city and housed in the buildings which once sheltered the Anchor Cotton Press.

The regiment kept itself busy helping to police the city, putting down an occasional civil disturbance. When the captured Confederate archives in New Orleans were sent to Washington, it furnished the honor guard that was chosen to accompany them. The 36<sup>th</sup> became known as “Sheridan’s Pets.”

### **Mustered out October 8 and discharged at Springfield, Ill. October 27, 1865**

In the fall the regiment was sent back up the river to be disbanded. Its drums were stilled, its colors furled.

*KCR, 10-12-1865*

It is reported that the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry is on its way to Springfield to be mustered out.

*AB, 11-2-1865*

### **THE THIRTY – SIXTH**

On Monday of last week the 36<sup>th</sup> regiment was finally paid off at Springfield and on Tuesday evening, nearly fifty of the boys, whose homes were near Aurora, landed at our depot, and heartily welcomed by expectant friends. Before coming north Colonel Campbell received the following very flattering letters from his superior officers. These epistles are, of course, as highly commendatory of the regiment as of the Colonel, his reputation depending very much upon the efficiency of his regiment:

Head Qrs. Mil. Div. of the Gulf,  
New Orleans, La., Oct. 10, 1865.

Colonel: -- Before your departure for your home in the North, and your

muster out of the service, I desire to express to you my thanks for the admirable manner in which you have conducted yourself as a soldier and a gentleman during the recent rebellion. I have known you personally since the earliest part of the war and have always found you to be a faithful and patriotic public servant, desirous of doing your duty on all occasions, to your country and your superiors.

In the energy and kindness of heart with which you have looked to the welfare of your regiment, you have been a worthy successor to Miller and Olsen.

You deserve not only my thanks, but the thanks of your neighbors and the country.

I am Col., very respectfully,

P. H. Sheridan,  
Major General U. S. A.  
Colonel Campbell, 36<sup>th</sup> Ill. Infantry.

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Head Qrs. Mil. Div. of the Gulf,  
Office Provost Marshall General  
New Orleans, La., Oct. 6, 1865

*Col. B. F. Campbell, Commanding 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois Veteran Volunteers:*

Colonel: -- Now, that your regiment, the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois veteran volunteers is to be mustered out of the service, and you once more to return to the civil walk of life, I cannot forbear, in taking leave of you, in bearing testimony, however humble, to your merits as an officer and soldier in the ranks of your countrymen in the late struggle with treason and rebellion, which has ended so gloriously for the vindication of the principles that man is capable of self government, and that republics, based upon the intelligence of their citizens and equal rights are proof against the plottings of insidious and ambitious men to pull down its superstructure.

During the past four years, so eventful in the history of our beloved country, it has been my fortune to be connected and associated with you and your gallant regiment.

I know that the record made by you and your command is second to none in its devotion and loyalty to the cause for which you left your peaceful homes to avenge the insults cast upon our starry banner by the hands of traitors.

The bloody fields of Pea Ridge, Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge and the Atlanta campaign, together with the closing battles in the west at Franklin and Nashville, have shed undying glory upon the scarred veterans of your regiment.

When I look back upon the past, the forms of brave and gallant men and officers, who laid down their lives freely upon the alter of their country as a sacrifice that its integrity might be sustained, arise before me so vividly that it is with feelings of pride and sorrow, that I recall their names. Colonel Silas Miller and Lieut. Olsen should be household names amongst the veterans of the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois, at whose head they yielded up their lives whilst leading them to victory.

Now, sir, permit me, in bidding farewell to you as a soldier, to wish that you and your command may be as successful in the cultivation of the arts of *peace*, as you have been in that of *war*. May prosperity and health follow you and yours in all the enterprises of life, and a grateful country reward your substantial services rendered to her in her hour of utmost need.

I am Col., very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,

G. T. Sherman,  
Brigadier General U. S. A., and Provost Marshal General  
Military Division of the Gulf.

As late as 1924, well attended reunions of surviving veterans of the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry Regiment were still being held at the Aurora G. A. R. Hall

The Illinois Adjutant General's Report summed it up simply:

"In general engagements alone, the Thirty Sixth (Infantry) Regiment lost in killed and wounded over 700 men. It was re enforced by 221 recruits and drafted men. It marched and was transported by rail or boat over 10,000 miles during its term of service, changed commanding officers ten times, yet maintained throughout... esprit de corps of its original organization."

The authors of its regimental history liked to boast that it lost fewer men by disease than any other regiment in the Union Army. However that may be, it certainly ranks among the best fighting units of the Army of the Cumberland.

The matter was once put even more concisely. "Old Rosey" had watched the boys parade before him in Nashville, on the eve of their most terrible ordeal at Stones River. As the forest of bayonets swept by him in perfect order, he doffed his hat in respect.

"Beat that, if you can!" he said.

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